

On Top Of The World



Clinton out, Kerry in as secretary of state

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Edward Koch, former New York City Mayor, dies at 88

Robert D. Mcfadden

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NEW YORK — Edward I. Koch, the master showman of City Hall, who parlayed shrewd political instincts and plenty of chutzpah into three tumultuous terms as mayor of New York with all the tenacity, zest and combativeness that per-



Former Mayor Edward I. Koch.
 (The New York Times)

sonified his city of golden dreams, died Friday at age 88. Koch's spokesman, George Arzt, said the former mayor died at 2 a.m. from congestive heart failure. He was being treated at NY Presbyterian hospital. Koch had experienced coronary and other medical problems since leaving

office in 1989. But he had been in relatively good health despite — or perhaps because of — his whirlwind life as a television judge, radio talk-show host, author, law partner, newspaper columnist, movie reviewer, professor, commercial pitchman and political gadfly.

Flitting from broadcast studios to lunch meetings and speaking engagements, popping up at show openings and news conferences, Koch, in his life after politics, seemed for all the world like the old campaigner, running flat out.

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Clinton out, Kerry in as secretary of state

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton formally resigned Friday as America's secretary of state, capping a four-year tenure that saw her shatter records for the number of countries visited. John Kerry was sworn in to replace her.

In a letter sent to President Barack Obama shortly before she left the State Department for the last time in her official capacity, Clinton thanked her former foe for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination for the opportunity to serve in his administration. Clinton said it had been an honor to be part of his Cabinet. "I am more convinced than ever in the strength and staying power of America's global leadership and our capacity to be a force for good in the world," she said in the letter.

Her resignations became effective at 4 p.m. Friday, when Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan swore in

John Kerry as the top U.S. diplomat. The former senator and 2004 Democratic presidential candidate is the 68th secretary of state. "I'm just very, very honored to be sworn in and I'm very

anxious to get to work," Kerry told reporters after the private ceremony at the Capitol.

"I'll be reporting Monday morning at nine o'clock to do my part," he said, but

refused to say what global hotspot he would visit first. In the State Department's main lobby, Clinton pushed through a throng of American foreign service workers who clamored for hand-

shakes and smartphone photos with her and gave an emotional goodbye speech.

She told them to continue to "serve the nation we all love, to understand the challenges, the threats and the opportunities that the United States faces and to work with all our heart and all of our might to make sure that America is secure, that our interests are promoted and our values are respected."

Clinton, however, also left office with a slap at critics of the Obama administration's handling of the September attack on a U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya. She told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that critics of the administration's handling of the attack don't live in an "evidence-based world," and their refusal to "accept the facts" is unfortunate and regrettable for the political system.

Clinton told the AP that the attack in Benghazi was the low point of her time as America's top diplomat. But she suggested that the furor over the assault would not affect whether she runs for president in 2016.

Although she insisted that she has not decided what her future holds, she said she "absolutely" still plans to make a difference on issues she cares about in speeches and in a sequel to her 2003 memoir, "Living History," that will focus largely on her years as secretary of state.

But the woman who was once considered a divisive figure in American politics, yet leaves office as one of its most popular, remained coy about whether she would run for president in 2016.

"I am making no decisions, but I would never give that advice to someone that I wouldn't take myself," she said. "If you believe you can make a difference, not just in politics, in public service, in advocacy around all these important issues, then you have to be prepared to accept that you are not going to get 100 percent approval." □



Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., right, is greeted by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Capitol Hill in Washington. Clinton formally resigned Friday as U.S. America's secretary of state, and John Kerry was immediately sworn in to replace her.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Bomb rips through US Embassy in Turkey

SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — In the second deadly assault on a U.S. diplomatic post in five months, a suicide bomber struck the American Embassy in Ankara on Friday, killing a Turkish security guard in what the White House described as a terrorist attack.

Washington immediately warned Americans to stay away from all U.S. diplomatic facilities in Turkey and to be wary in large crowds.

Turkish officials said the bombing was linked to leftist domestic militants.

The attack drew condemnation from Turkey, the U.S., Britain and other nations and officials from both Turkey and the U.S. pledged to work together to fight terrorism.

"We strongly condemn what was a suicide attack against our embassy in Ankara, which took place at

the embassy's outer security perimeter," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

said police believe the bomber was connected to a domestic leftist militant group. Carney, however,

ish capital, and two other guards had lighter wounds, officials said.

The state-run Anadolu Agency identified the bomber as Ecevit Sanli. It said the 40-year-old Turkish man was a member of the outlawed Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front, or DHKP-C, which has claimed responsibility for assassinations and bombings since the 1970s. The group has been designated a terrorist organization by the United States but had been relatively quiet in recent years.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, in her farewell speech to State Department staff moments after she formally resigned as secretary of state, said "we were attacked and lost one of our foreign service nationals." She said she spoke with U.S. Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, "our team there and my Turkish counterpart." □



Medics carry an injured woman on a stretcher to an ambulance after a suspected suicide bomber detonated an explosive device at the entrance of the U.S. Embassy in the Turkish capital, Ankara, Turkey, Friday Feb. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

"A suicide bombing on the perimeter of an embassy is by definition an act of terror," he said. "It is a terrorist attack." Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan

said the motive for the attack and who was behind it was not known.

A Turkish TV journalist was seriously wounded in the 1:15 p.m. blast in the Turk-



Rescuers work at the accident site where an expressway bridge partially collapsed due to a truck explosion in Mianchi County, Sanmenxia, central China's Henan Province, Friday, Feb. 1, 2013. Fireworks for Lunar New Year celebrations exploded on a truck in central China, destroying part of an elevated highway Friday and sending vehicles plummeting about 100 feet to the ground. (AP Photo)

Fireworks cause deadly China highway collapse

DIDI TANG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — An elevated portion of highway in central China collapsed on Friday after a truck loaded with fireworks for Lunar New Year celebrations exploded, killing at least nine people and sending vehicles plummeting 30 meters (about 100 feet) to the ground. The official Xinhua News Agency said nine people were confirmed dead and another 13 injured, including four in serious condition. It said the collapse smashed and buried at least 25 vehicles. Earlier reports by China National Radio and some other outlets of 26 people killed were later removed from websites, without explanation.

An 80-meter (260-foot) stretch of the major east-west highway collapsed in Mianchi county in Henan province. It scattered blackened chunks of de-

bris and shattered the windows of a nearby truck stop. A truck driver interviewed on CCTV said he was only 20 meters (yards) away from the explosion.

"I heard a huge bang and immediately braked. I saw small fireballs falling down one by one," said the unidentified truck driver, whose truck windshield was smashed from the impact of the blast.

"I then heard the sounds of clanking and exploding for five to six minutes," the driver said. "My face was covered in dust."

Photos posted online by Xinhua showed a stretch of elevated highway gone, with one truck's back wheels perched at the edge of a shorn-off section of the highway. Other photos showed firefighters below spraying water on scorched hunks of concrete, wrecked trucks and flattened shipping containers. □

Egypt burns as riots continue

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Protesters denouncing Egypt's Islamist president hurled stones and firebombs through the gates of his palace gates on Friday, clashing with security forces who fired tear gas and water cannons, as more than a week of political violence came to Mohamed Morsi's symbolic doorstep for the first time.

The streets outside the presidential palace were a scene of mayhem for hours into the night.

Security forces pumped volley after volley of tear gas, set fire to protester tents and at one point dragged a protester to the ground, stripped him and beat him. Protesters burned tires and hurled stones and fireworks. A 23-year-old died when he was shot in the chest and forehead, the Health Ministry said.

The march on the palace, where Morsi was not present, was part of a wave of demonstrations in cities

around the country called by opposition politicians, trying to wrest concessions from Morsi after around 60 people were killed in protests, clashes and riots.

But many of the protesters go further, saying he must be removed from office, accusing his Muslim Brotherhood of monopolizing power and failing to deal with the country's mounting woes. Many have been further angered by Morsi's praise of the security forces after the high death toll, which is widely blamed on excessive use of force by the police.

The day's unrest, however, risked boosting attempts by the government and Brotherhood to taint the opposition as violent and destructive — a tack Morsi supporters have taken for weeks.

In a statement issued amid the clashes, Morsi accused protesters of trying to break into the palace and said "political forces involved in incitement" are responsible for the violence. He called on all factions to

condemn the violence and said security forces would "act decisively to protect state institutions."

A day earlier, the top opposition figures met with the Brotherhood for the first time and agreed on a joint promise to avoid violence. That drew sharp criticism from many anti-Morsi activists who said the politicians had played into the Brotherhood's hands and given legitimacy to any crack-down.

The fighting started when a crowd of several thousand marched to the palace in an upscale district of the capital, chanting, "the people want the fall of the regime," and "leave, leave, Morsi." Security forces allowed them to reach close to the main gate, and some protesters hurled shoes and stones through the fence into the grounds. Some climbed on the fence, apparently to better throw stones, but it did not appear they were breaking in. At first, police and Republican Guards inside did not respond. □



A fire rages as protesters clash with police outside Egypt's presidential palace in Cairo, Friday, Feb. 1, 2013. (AP Photo/Mostafa El Shemy)

7 people stabbed in Vancouver attack

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Police say

a man ran through the hallways of a Vancouver apartment building, slashing seven people in what they believe was a completely random attack,

Sgt. Randy Fincham said Friday seven people were injured in the high rise building on the city's west end during the attack Thursday night. Six people were taken to hospital and one woman remains in crit-

ical condition. Another bystander was treated at the scene and released.

The 33-year-old male suspect, who was not a resident of the building, was taken into custody Thursday night. □

At Press Time:

Alabama hostage standoff carries on into 4th day

JAY REEVES

M. NELSON-GABRIEL

Associated Press

MIDLAND CITY, Alabama

(AP) — The standoff between police and a gunman accused of holding a 5-year-old boy hostage in an underground bunker dragged into a fourth day on Friday, as authorities sought to continue delicate conversations with the man through a pipe and worked to safely end the tense situation.

Police said Jimmy Lee Dykes shot a school bus driver to death, grabbed the child off the bus and slipped into an underground bunker on his property in rural Alabama, where he and the boy have been since Tuesday.



The Dale County Sheriff's Department helicopter lands at the scene of an ongoing hostage crisis in Midland City, Ala., Friday, Feb. 1, 2013. More than three days after the standoff began, the man showed no signs Friday of turning himself over to police.

(AP Photo/Jay Hare)

long as they are confident that the boy is unharmed. He cautioned against any drastic measures, such as cutting the electricity or putting sleep gas inside the bunker because it could agitate Dykes.

The negotiator should try to ease Dykes' anxieties over what will happen when the standoff ends, and refer to both the boy and Dykes by their first names to humanize them.

"I want to give him a reason to come out," Van Zandt said, "and my reason is, 'You didn't mean that to happen. It was unintentional. It could have happened to anyone. It was an accident. People have accidents, Jimmy Lee. It's not that big a thing. You and I can work that out.'"

The shelter was about 4 feet (1.2 meters) underground, with about 6-by-8 feet (1.8-by-2.4 meters) of floor space and the PVC pipe that negotiators were speaking through, said James Arrington, police chief of the neighboring town of Pinckard.

"He will have to give up sooner or later because (authorities) are not leaving," Arrington said. "It's pretty small, but he's been known to stay in there eight days." □

There were signs the standoff could go on for some time: the shelter has electricity, food, TV, and police have delivered the boy's medication through a ventilation pipe leading to the bunker. Hostage negotiators have used the pipe to talk to the gunman, but investigators have been tightlipped about their conversations. Former FBI hostage negotiator Clint Van Zandt said authorities at the scene shouldn't rush to resolve the standoff as

VT looters steal \$200K in coins from dead hoarder

Associated Press

ALBURGH, Vermont (AP) — It took months for anyone to discover that an eccentric man known simply as Radkin had died, crushed under a tractor-pulled horse trailer on his property on the shores of Lake Champlain in northern Vermont. But it didn't take long for looters to ransack the hoarder's dilapidated house, police say, hauling off antiques, a vehicle, scrap metal and more than \$200,000 in gold coins.

Four people, including at least one whom police suspect knew the 66-year-old Radkin, are facing charges of stealing the coins and cashing them in at coin and jewelry stores. Police expect to make more arrests.

"We've been watching the looters come and go," said John Fleury of Enosburgh, who has a camp across the road from Radkin's property in Alburgh, Vermont, which used to belong to the family of Fleury's wife.

He said no one called the police because no one was concerned.

The property includes a dilapidated brick house and outbuildings full to the brim with stuff. □

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Edward Koch, former New York City Mayor, dies at 88



Former Mayor Edward I. Koch in New York, Jan 18, 1994. Koch, the master showman of City Hall, who parlayed shrewd political instincts and plenty of chutzpah into three tumultuous terms as mayor of New York with all the tenacity, zest and combativeness that personified his city of golden dreams, died Friday morning, Feb. 1, 2013, at age 88.

(Sara Krulwich/The New York Times)

Continued from front

Only his bouts of illness slowed him down, most recently forcing him to miss the premiere on Tuesday of "Koch," a documentary biographical film that opens Friday in theaters nationwide.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg praised Koch as "an irrepressible icon, our most charismatic cheerleader and champion," calling him "a great mayor, a great man, and a great friend."

Koch's 12-year mayoralty encompassed the fiscal austerity of the late 1970s and the racial conflicts and municipal corruption scandals of the 1980s, an era of almost continuous discord that found Koch caught in a maelstrom day after day.

But out among the people or facing a news media circus at City Hall, he was a feisty egoist who could not be pinned down by questioners and who could outtalk anybody in the authentic voice of New York: as opinionated as a Flatbush cabbie, as loud as the scrums on 42nd Street, as

pugnacious as a West Side reform Democrat mother.

"I'm the sort of person who will never get ulcers," the mayor – eyebrows devilishly up, grinning wickedly at his own wit – enlightened the reporters at his \$475 rent-controlled apartment in Greenwich Village on Inauguration Day in 1978. "Why? Because I say exactly what I think. I'm the sort of person who might give other people ulcers." His political odyssey took him from independent-minded liberal to pragmatic conservative, from street-corner hustings with a little band of reform Democrats in Greenwich Village to the pinnacle of power as New York City's 105th mayor from Jan. 1, 1978, to Dec. 31, 1989. Along the way, he served two years as a councilman and nine more in Congress representing the East Side of Manhattan.

With his trademark – "How'm I doin'?" – Koch stood at subway entrances on countless mornings wringing the hands and votes of constituents, who elected him 21 times in 26 years, with only three de-

feats: a forgettable 1962 state Assembly race; a memorable 1982 primary in a race for governor won by Mario M. Cuomo; and a last Koch hurrah, a Democratic primary in 1989 won by David N. Dinkins, who would be his one-term successor.

Edward Irving Koch was born in Crotona Park East in the Bronx on Dec. 12, 1924, the second of three children of Louis and Joyce Silpe Koch, Polish Jews who had immigrated to New

York separately in the early 1900s.

Koch was drafted into the Army in 1943 and earned two battle stars in Europe as an infantryman. He was a sergeant when discharged in 1946.

Koch, who never married and had no children, wrote 17 books, including one with his sister, Pat Koch Thaler, a small volume, "Eddie: Harold's Little Brother," that appeared in 2004. His brother, Harold M. Koch, a carpet distributor, died

in 1995. Besides his sister, a former dean at New York University, Koch is survived by New York itself, as an old friend put it a few years ago.

"The city was and is his family," said Maureen Connelly, a former press secretary and veteran political adviser. "We used to be scared about what would happen to Ed if he lost. We said it would be best if he just died in the saddle. But he never had any intention of getting off the horse." □

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Dozens disciplined over exam cheating at Harvard

BRIDGET MURPHY
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Harvard University has doled out academic sanctions to dozens of students after a cheating probe connected to an open-book, take-home final exam.

The school implicated as many as 125 students in the scandal when officials first addressed the issue last year.

The inquiry started after a teaching assistant in a spring semester undergraduate-level government class detected problems, including that students may have shared answers. In a campus-wide email Friday, Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean Michael D. Smith said the school's academic integrity board

had resolved all the cases related to the cheating probe.

He said "somewhat more than half" the cases involved students who had to withdraw from the college for a period of time.

Of the cases left, about half the students got disciplinary probation. The rest weren't disciplined.

Some athletes became ensnared, including two basketball team co-captains whom the school scratched from its team roster. Past reports in The Harvard Crimson also linked football, baseball and ice hockey players to the scandal.

Smith said in Friday's email that the school wouldn't discuss specific student cases.



In a campus-wide email sent Friday, February 01, 2013, Dean Michael D. Smith said Harvard University doled out academic sanctions to dozens of students after a cheating probe connected to an open-book, take-home final exam.

(Handout Photo)

The dean said a school committee is working on recommendations to

strengthen a culture of academic honesty and promote ethics in scholarship.

"This is a time for communal reflection and action," he wrote. "We are responsible for creating the community in which our students study and we all thrive as scholars."

Staples founder Thomas Stemberg, a Harvard graduate whose son is a student now, on Friday criticized the school's handling of the probe.

"If you challenge the entire faculty at the Harvard Business School and the Harvard Law School to come up with a process that took more time, cost more money, embarrassed more innocent students, and vindicated guilty faculty ... that could not have outdone the process that took place," he said. □

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White House proposes compromise on Insurance and contraception coverage

ROBERT PEAR
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WASHINGTON—The Obama administration proposed yet another compromise on Friday in an effort to address the concerns of religious organizations that object to its policy requiring health insurance plans to cover contraceptives for women at no charge.

Kathleen Sebelius, the secretary of health and human services, said the proposal would guarantee free coverage of birth control "while respecting religious concerns."

Churches and religious organizations that object to providing birth control coverage on religious grounds would not have to pay for it.

Under the proposal, the administration said, "eligible organizations would not have to contract, arrange, pay or refer for any contra-

ceptive coverage to which they object on religious grounds." Female employees of such organizations would receive contraceptive coverage through separate individual health insurance policies, without having to pay premiums or co-payments.

The proposed rule is somewhat ambiguous about exactly who would pay the costs. Insurers would bear the initial cost, but would save money in the long run because they would "experience lower costs from improvements in women's health and fewer childbirths," the administration said. The new health care law generally requires employers to provide women with coverage at no cost for "preventive care and screenings." Under this provision, the administration says that most health plans must cover contraceptives

for women free of charge. Specifically, the administration says, employers must cover sterilization and the full range of contraceptive methods approved by the Food and Drug Administration, including emergency contraceptive pills, like those known as Ella and Plan B One-Step. Employers who do not provide such coverage will be subject to financial penalties.

The administration on Friday proposed a complicated arrangement to finance contraceptive coverage for employees of religious organizations that serve as their own insurers. The federal government would require health insurance companies to defray the cost indirectly, by paying higher fees for the privilege of selling health insurance to millions of Americans in new online markets run by the federal government. □

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Chu to resign his position as Energy Secretary

MATTHEW L. WALD
© 2013 New York Times
WASHINGTON - Energy Secretary Steven Chu will leave office soon, possibly by the end of this month, he told colleagues in an email Friday morning, according to Energy Department employees. His departure had been widely expected, although as late as Thursday afternoon he was refusing to answer questions on the subject. The open slot at the Energy Department adds to a constellation of vacancies at the top of related agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Transportation Department and the Interior Department. President Barack Obama said in a statement that Chu "brought to the Energy Department a unique understanding of both the urgent challenge presented by climate change and the tremendous opportunity that clean energy rep-

resents for our economy." The president said that in the four years of Chu's tenure, "we have doubled the use of renewable energy, dramatically reduced our dependence on foreign oil, and put our country on a path to win the global race for clean energy jobs." He also praised Chu for expanded support for research into "groundbreaking innovations that could transform our energy future." Chu presided over a \$90 billion surge in expenditures in which the Obama administration tried to use the Energy Department to accomplish twin goals: stimulating the economy, and advancing energy efficiency and clean energy production. Chu, a physicist, is the first Cabinet secretary to come into office with a Nobel Prize (an honor he shared in 1997 for his work with supercooled atoms) and the

first scientist to lead the department. His 15 predecessors as secretary included a dentist, an admiral from the nuclear navy, a former electric utility lobbyist and a variety of political figures.

But his scientific stature was such that he escaped the most severe criticism by Republicans when the department faced its biggest attack, over the bankruptcy of Solyndra,

an innovative solar equipment company that got a \$535 million loan guarantee from the department but declared bankruptcy because the market for its product had collapsed. Republicans accused the White House of cronyism, noting that among Solyndra's investors were some Obama campaign donors. But Chu was generally exempted by Republicans. While he had the political skills to manage the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, Calif., and its 4,000 employees, his job before he was chosen by Obama to be energy secretary, he also showed a physicist's penchant for speaking the truth plainly, in a way that people in politics generally avoid. □



Steven Chu, the secretary of the Department of Energy, testifies in Washington. Chu will leave the Energy Department soon, possibly by the end of February, 2013, he told colleagues in an e-mail on Feb. 1, 2013, according to Energy Department employees. (Philip Andrews/The New York Times)

U.S. consumers' outlook improved in late January

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — A survey released Friday shows Americans' outlook for the economy perked up in late January, suggesting an improving job market may blunt the impact of higher taxes. The University of Michigan's final January survey of consumer sentiment rose to 73.8. That's up from a preliminary reading of 71.3, released on Jan. 18. And it's slightly better than December's reading of 72.9. The preliminary survey reflected consumers' initial reaction to an increase in Social Security taxes, which took effect in

early January. A separate survey from the Conference Board also showed consumer confidence fell in January because of the tax increase. On Friday, the government said the economy added 157,000 jobs in January and hiring was stronger at the end of 2012 than previously thought. The final Michigan survey, which included data collected after Jan. 18, showed consumers were more optimistic about their prospects for the next six months than they were in December. Still, their mood about current conditions declined from December. □

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Syrian rebels slam Assad inaction on Israeli raid

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian opposition leaders and rebels on Friday slammed President Bashar Assad for not responding to a rare Israeli airstrike near Damascus, calling it proof of his weakness and acquiescence to the Jewish State.

The opposition's sharp reaction underlines how those seeking to topple the Syrian leader might be more prepared to tangle with Israel if they came to power.

Wednesday's Israeli airstrike that U.S. officials say hit a convoy of anti-aircraft weapons bound for the

militant Lebanese Hezbollah group also has fueled rage among many Syrians who say they now must fear warplanes from both Assad's forces and Israel.

"Assad never once in his life stood up to Israel," said Kamal Labwani, a prominent Syrian dissident and member of the Syrian National Coalition, an umbrella group of those trying to oust Assad. "All he ever did is 'reserve the right to retaliate' but he never retaliated against anyone other than the Syrian people and the Free Syrian Army."

Syria's army chief of staff, Gen. Ali Abdullah Ayoub, warned Friday against test-

ing his country's capabilities.

That was a day after Syria's ambassador to Lebanon, Ali Abdul-Karim Ali, said

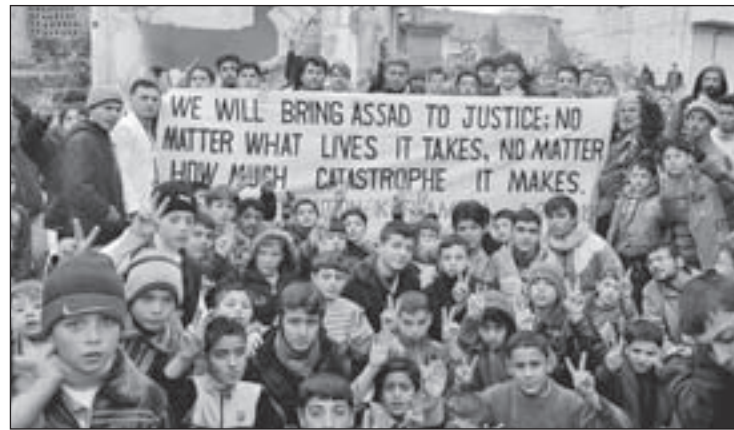
Damascus "has the option and the capacity to surprise in retaliation," but that it was up to the relevant authorities to choose the

time and place.

The comments reflected increased tension between Syria and Israel.

Up to now, the Jewish state has refrained from actions that could be interpreted as intervention in Syria's civil war. But the Syrian government's overall response to this week's airstrike was seen as passive, and most Syrians said they did not expect their military to retaliate.

"I am 100 percent sure the regime will not retaliate," Mosab, a rebel fighter told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. The fighter, who was deployed near the Syrian capital, Damascus, declined to give his full name or precise location for security reasons. The uprising against Assad began in March 2011 with largely peaceful pro-reform protests and developed into a civil war which the United Nations says has killed more than 60,000 people. The Syrian government maintains that there is no uprising in Syria but a conspiracy against the country because of its support for anti-Israeli groups. Assad and his late father, Hafez, who together have ruled Syria for four decades, have often tried to draw political legitimacy from the country's combative stance toward Israel. The Assad regime has long sheltered radical Palestinian groups and has facilitated Iran's assistance to militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah. Israel captured the Golan, a strategic plateau, from Syria in the 1967 war, and Syria demands the area back as part of any peace deal. □



Anti-Syrian regime protesters flashing the victory sign as they hold a banner during a demonstration, at Kafr Nabil town, in Idlib province, northern Syria, Friday, Feb. 1, 2013. (AP Photo)

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Iraq Sunnis protest; al-Qaida front calls to arms

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Tens of thousands of Sunni protesters blocked a major highway in western Iraq on Friday, as an al-Qaida-affiliated group called on Sunnis to take up arms against the Shiite-led government. The rally comes at a time of mounting sectarian tensions in Iraq. Minority Sunnis complain of official discrimination against them, and the arrests of bodyguards of a senior Sunni politician in December have sparked weekly demonstrations. The main rallies Friday took place in Fallujah and Ramadi, cities that straddle the highway running through Anbar province.

The province was a former al-Qaida stronghold that saw some of the fiercest fighting against U.S. forces during the Iraq war. Protesters also marched in the capital Baghdad and in the central city of Samarra. Friday's turnout appeared to be among the largest since the protests began in December. In Fallujah and Ramadi, demonstrators performed Muslim noon prayers, the highlight of the religious week, on the highway, which links Iraq with Jordan. Last week, five protesters and two Iraqi soldiers were killed in clashes in Fallujah, and demonstrators held up pictures of the dead on Friday.



Iraqis chant anti-government slogans as they wave national flags and hold posters of slain protesters during a protest in Fallujah, 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, Feb. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/ Khalid Mohammed)

Sunni cleric Abdul-Hameed Jadoua told the crowd that "the blood of the martyrs was shed so that the

dignity of our Iraq and our tribes will be restored." He demanded that soldiers be put on trial for kill-

ing protesters and said the army must stay out of the area. "From this place, we tell the government that we do not want to see a soldier from now on, not only in Fallujah, but in all its suburbs and (surrounding) villages," he said. The cleric appeared to be rebuffing a call to arms. "I tell the young people that we do appreciate your zeal ... but you should be disciplined and adhere to the directives of the clerics and tribal leaders so that we act in a reasonable way," he said. Al-Qaida has expressed support for the protests. On Friday, an al-Qaida-affiliated group, the Islamic State of Iraq, called on Sunnis to resort to violence against the government. □



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Venezuela: Inmates missing after prison clash

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — One week after gunfire tore through Uribana prison in one of Venezuela's deadliest-ever prison clashes, the families of some inmates say they haven't been able to find their relatives.

They say they've looked at the morgue, in the hospital and on lists of inmates transferred to other prisons after the violence on Jan. 25. The government says 58 people were killed in the clash between armed inmates and security forces, but one Venezuelan prison watchdog group says that according to its tally at least 63 died.

The government as of Friday had yet to provide an explanation to some relatives who haven't located inmates and have been waiting for news every day outside the prison on the outskirts of the western city of Barquisimeto.

Pilar Pineda said she has been trying to find her brother, 31-year-old Daniel Enrique Pineda, who had been in the prison for two years, awaiting a sentence in a robbery case, when the violence erupted.

A maid, Pineda has been taking a three-hour bus trip every day from the town where she lives, and has

been waiting in the sun with relatives of other inmates outside the prison, going long hours without eating. "You never lose faith, and that's what we hope, that with the grace of God we will find my brother," Pineda told The Associated Press in a telephone interview on Thursday. Pineda said that

bo said she looked for her 26-year-old son, Ildemaro Jose Tambo, in the morgue and in the hospital, and on lists of transferred prisoners, and that he finally called her on Thursday from another prison where he was taken. Recalling his voice saying "Mama," Tambo said: "I felt very happy, very



An injured prison inmate is carried into the hospital in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, following last weeks bloody riot at the Uribana prison in the central Venezuelan city of Barquisimeto.

(AP Photo/Rafael Rodriguez)

a man with the same last name as her brother but a different first name appeared on a list of inmates transferred to another prison, and she hopes it might be him. She guesses officials might have taken down his name incorrectly in the rush while hundreds of inmates were being moved out of the prison after the violence. Nelly Tam-

bo said she looked for her 26-year-old son, Ildemaro Jose Tambo, in the morgue and in the hospital, and on lists of transferred prisoners, and that he finally called her on Thursday from another prison where he was taken. Recalling his voice saying "Mama," Tambo said: "I felt very happy, very

excited because I hadn't slept, I hadn't eaten thinking about him." Activist Humberto Prado, who leads the watchdog group Venezuelan Prisons Observatory, said his organization has been gathering information about various families who haven't located their relatives after the violence at Uribana prison. □

Holland nationalizes SNS Reaal N.V. Bank

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Netherlands nationalized its fourth-largest bank on Friday, injecting €2.2 billion (\$3 billion) to recapitalize SNS Reaal NV and head off any chance of a messy collapse that would threaten the country's fragile economy and financial system. The total cost to the Dutch government will be at least €3.7 billion, Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem told a press conference. That's enough to ensure that the Netherlands' budget deficit in 2013 will be higher than the 3 percent allowed under EU rules, unless the Cabinet — which has already taken a series of unpopular tax hikes and spending cuts — comes up with further austerity measures.

"This isn't what we wanted," Dijsselbloem said. But he added that, without the nationalization, SNS "would have gone irrevocably bankrupt," with dire consequences.

Although the bank's failure had been long-coming, it carries the added embarrassment for Dijsselbloem that he has recently been chosen President of the "Eurogroup," the regular meetings of eurozone finance ministers. The Netherlands has been among the loudest in demanding that other countries adhere to the 3 percent rule. Costs from the nationalization "must not lead to new spending cuts that will hurt the taxpayer further," said Carola Schouten of the opposition Christian Union Party. SNS has insurance and banking operations, including about 10 percent of Dutch retail deposits. Its

total balance sheet was around €134 billion. Its decline and fall happened over a period of years, rather than as a result of any acute crisis, as falling property values in the Netherlands and Spain continually eroded its portfolio of real estate loans month after month.

SNS Depositors and senior creditors won't lose any money in the nationalization, the Finance Ministry said.

However, SNS shareholders will be wiped out, along with some junior creditors, including the state itself. SNS owed the government €800 million, including interest, left over from a 2008 bailout. Other junior creditors will lose around €1 billion, the ministry said. The three biggest Dutch banks, ING Groep NV, ABN Amro, and Rabobank will contribute a combined €1 billion to help save SNS.

The nationalization shows the damage the crisis has wrought on the oversize Dutch financial sector and means that three of the five biggest banks in the country have now come under state control since the start of the crisis: ABN Amro was merged with the former Fortis and both were nationalized back in 2008. In addition, ING received several bailouts which have still not been fully repaid. Only Rabobank, a banking cooperative, has not yet needed state aid.

In July, SNS began warning that its equity — or net worth — was sinking below legally permissible levels and it would likely need some kind of restructuring. In November it acknowledged its survival was uncertain. □



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Cuba, US continue the blame game over poor ties

PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A senior Cuban official sharply criticized U.S. President Barack Obama on Friday for suggesting Cuba was stuck in the past, saying the only anachronistic element of the relationship is Washington's half-century-old economic embargo.

Josefina Vidal, the head of the Foreign Ministry's North American affairs division, said Obama was poorly informed if he thought Cuba had not changed in recent years. She said her country has always been willing to negotiate improved relations with the U.S.

"It's unfortunate that President Obama continues to be poorly advised and ill-informed about the Cuban reality, as well as the sentiments of his own people who desire normalization of our relationship," Vidal said in a statement sent to foreign media on the island.

She said Cuba was "changing and advancing," a reference to economic and social reforms enacted in recent years under President Raul Castro.

In an interview with the Spanish news channel Telemundo broadcast Wednesday, Obama said his administration is open to better ties but that "it's got to be a two-way street."

He said Cuban jails are still filled with political prisoners and that the island's leaders are clinging to a failed model.

"It's time to join the 21st century," he said. "It's one thing to have cars from the 1950s. It's another thing when your whole political ideology .. is 50 years or 60 years old and it's been proven not to work."

In recent years, Cuba has allowed for limited capitalism and legalized the real estate market, among other reforms, while insisting the changes did not consti-

tute a break from its socialist model.

Among the measures getting the most attention was last month's lifting of a

new passport was granted on Thursday. Last year she was denied a "white card," or exit permit, when she tried to travel to Brazil for a

Schengen agreement nations arranged, they will be delivered to me next week," Sanchez said on Twitter on Friday.

The "Schengen area" is a region in Europe within which there are little or no border or visa controls between Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany and France.

But Sanchez and others bemoaned the denial of passports to two other government opponents. Dissidents Angel Moya and Jose Daniel Ferrer were turned down under a clause that lets the government withhold travel papers to people facing legal cases, or for reasons of national security or public interest.

The men were among the 75 activists jailed in the 2003 "black spring" crackdown on dissent. While they were later freed, their release was conditional and technically are still serving long sentences. □



A vegetable market in Old Havana, Cuba. Josefina Vidal, the head of Cuba's Foreign Ministry's North American affairs division said Cuba was "changing and advancing," a reference to economic and social reforms enacted in recent years under President Raul Castro.

(The New York Times)

longstanding requirement that islanders ask the government's permission to travel abroad.

Dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez's request for a

film festival, something she says has happened to her about 20 times in recent years.

"Visas for (hashtag)Brazil and for the (hashtag)

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Germany warns euro crisis not over

GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — Europe's efforts to solve its debt troubles won a vote of confidence Friday from the chairman of China's sovereign wealth fund, but Germany's finance minister told an international conference that the continent can't afford to become complacent.

Three years since the crisis started in Greece, the 17 European Union countries that use the euro have made a hopeful start to 2013, with promising economic data and troubled countries such as Italy and Spain enjoying lower borrowing costs.

Europe's problems and its slow-moving, complicated decision-making have of-

ten aroused frustration from other global economic powers.

Still, Jin Liqun, chairman of the board of supervisors at the China Investment Corp. and a past critic of rigid European labor laws, said there's reason for optimism.

"Now we finally see that the European countries are really coming to grips with



Special police forces secure a street near to the hotel Bayerischer Hof where the Conference on Security Policy takes place in Munich, southern Germany, on Friday, Feb. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)



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these issues," he told the Munich Security Conference, an annual gathering of leading security and foreign-policy officials.

He said the "mainstream" of the European public is behind tough austerity measures despite frequent protests. "We should understand (that) when you cut out some of the jobs, new jobs will be created," he said, insisting that "we have to continue with the austerity programs."

A similar message came from German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, whose country has championed the often-criticized focus on budget-cutting to tackle the crisis.

"The euro crisis is not over, but we are in a much better position than a year ago," said Schaeuble, speaking before Jin. He insisted "it would be completely wrong to sit back because of a certain easing of tensions," and Europe must ensure this year it doesn't forget the need to improve its economic competitiveness.

"We are always in danger of forgetting straight away to draw the lessons we have decided to implement, such as stronger reg-

ulation of financial markets, if we have less pressure in the markets," Schaeuble added.

Heavily indebted countries such as Spain and Italy faced alarmingly high borrowing costs on bond markets in mid-2012 as investors wondered whether they would be able to keep paying their debts.

Those costs fell after several steps by European leaders. One was the European Central Bank's offer to purchase bonds issued by indebted countries if they promise to reduce their deficits. Another was a proposal to set up a so-called banking union that aims to prevent failed banks bankrupting any country by transferring supervision of bank behavior to a single, central supervisor based at the ECB.

"As recently as last July, Italian and Spanish default probabilities as implied by the market were nearly 50 percent and that's a terrifying place to have been," said Anshu Jain, the co-CEO of Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest lender and a global heavyweight. Even the current rate of 20 percent "is still very much a worry," Jain said. □



ATA says Thanks:

Loyal Visitors honored at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort!



PALM BEACH - Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a huge group of loyal visitors to Aruba for their continued love and support of our island. The families are all at the Aruba Divi Phoenix Beach Resort enjoying another great vacation! The honorees for Distinguished Visitors of Aruba, who have visited our island for 10-to-19 consecutive years include Ronald and Mary Beyer of Marinette, Wisconsin, Gloria and Joseph Lombardi



of St. Lucia, Florida, Howard and Susan Solow of Yorktown, New York, Harold and Nancy Kulman of Marietta, Pennsylvania, Dr. Harry E. Olson Jr. of Kissimmee, Florida, Patricia Sematoske of Cicero, New York, and Evan Collins of Ridgefield, Connecticut. The honorees for Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba, who have visited our island for 20-or-more consecutive years include Jim

and Kathy Leonard of Medfield, Massachusetts, and Harry and Jean Miller from Maryland. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest who visit Aruba for 10 and 20 or more consecutive years. The certificates were presented by Darline S. de Cuba, representing ATA, with activities coordi-

nator Ms. Avril, who together conducted the ceremony, held at Aruba Divi Phoenix. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were the Fantastic Sunsets, our Beautiful Blue Ocean, the Friendly Aruban Hospitality, excellent Local Restaurants, and of course because Aruba is their true "Vacation home-away-from-home!" □

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa Aruba introduces Pilates!

EAGLE BEACH - As a health-oriented resort Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is now proudly offering Pilates lessons at the resort.

The lessons take place in the beautiful newly renovated beach pavilion. This exotic location features a hard wooden Walaba floor and thatch roof overlooking the white beach and turquoise Caribbean Sea. The resort has an experienced Pilates team with classes taught by Chris O'Connell and Barbara Franke who will make sure you get the perfect work out for your body. The lessons are offered Monday thru Saturday in addition to the existing yoga class schedule.

The daily yoga classes, which are offered 10 times a week by Rachel Brathen, have been a popular feature for years with a mix of resort guests, visitors from other hotels and locals attending daily. The resort is now proudly expanding the health program by offering their guests 6 weekly Pilates classes to stay active while enjoying their vacation!

Pilates is a physical fitness system developed in the early 20th century by Joseph Pilates. He called his method "Contrology" because he believed his method uses the mind to control the muscles. The program focuses on the core postural muscles which help keep the body balanced and which are essential to providing support for the spine. In particular, Pilates exercises teach awareness of breath and alignment of the spine, and aim to strengthen the deep torso muscles. Pilates improves mental and physical well-being, increases flexibility and strengthens muscles. Through controlled movements done on a mat with a flex ball or Pilates ring, these 50-minute classes will tone and strengthen from head to toe – a kick-start to your day!

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At the Marriott Surf Club: Loyal Visitors honored by Aruba Tourism Authority

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a big group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Bryan and Lesley Berman from Westbury, NY, Alan and Angela Osborne from Lexington, KY, and Tom and April Vanco and their boys from Monroe Township, NJ. All the honorees have one thing in common, they love the Island very much, because of the friendly people, the climate,



beaches, restaurants, golf, a nice place to heal from unfortunate situations, and Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel representing ATA, together with Luzdary Leest representing the Marriott Surf Club. □



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Harbaugh brothers could envision working together

San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh and Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh pose with their father Jack Harbaugh at a news conference for the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, in New Orleans.

Associated Press
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Phil Mickelson gives a thumbs-up to the crowd after making an eagle on the 15th hole during the second round of the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament on Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, in Scottsdale, Ariz.
Associated Press

Mickelson misses chance for tour 36-hole record

JOHN NICHOLSON
AP Sports Writer

COTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Phil Mickelson birdied the ninth hole a day too late and missed a chance to break the PGA Tour's 36-hole scoring record when he finished with a double bogey after driving into the water.

Mickelson followed his opening 60 with a 65 on Friday in the Phoenix Open to reach 17-under 125, a stroke off the tour record for the first two rounds of a tournament set by Pat Perez in the 2009 Bob Hope Classic and matched by David Toms at Colonial in 2011.

"Unfortunately, I made a double on the last hole and didn't finish the way I wanted to," Mickelson said.

Continued on page 18

THE FIGHT GAME



Fighting is up in compressed NHL season

Tampa Bay Lightning right wing B.J. Crombeen (19) fights with Florida Panthers defenseman Keaton Ellerby (4) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013, in Tampa, Fla.
Associated Press
Page 20

Nadal arrives in Chile to test himself and knee

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Rafael Nadal arrived in Chile on Friday and will test his injured left knee in competition for the first time next week after sitting out for seven months — the longest break of his career.

The 26-year-old Nadal will soon head off to the nearby coastal resort city of Vina del Mar, where he will play in his first event since being eliminated in the second round of Wimbledon in June.

Nadal, who will be trying to win his eighth French Open title later this year, said the knee still bothers him and that he may have to reduce his tournament appearances.

"My knee is much better, and this is the most important thing now because there's no risk of a big injury," Nadal said at the airport in Santiago. "But it's still bothering me, which will keep me from playing all the time, which I would like to do."

"You have to start somewhere," the Spaniard added. "I think this

is the right moment and the right place."

Nadal is one of the best clay-court players in the history of the game, but he tried to downplay what might happen in Chile, and later this month in clay-court events in Brazil and Mexico.

"It's been months — seven months — since I've competed," Nadal said. "This will be my first time playing in a very long time. Anything can happen. I'll try not to let it happen, but you have to be prepared for everything and be patient."

Nadal has a round of appearances to make before he opens play, including a meeting with Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, a big sports fan.

Nadal's first test will come Tuesday in a doubles match with Juan Monaco, followed by his opening match Wednesday in singles.

"I'm here to give the best I have right now," Nadal said, "and hope the knee holds up." □



In this photo released by Chile's Presidential Press Office, Spain's tennis player Rafael Nadal, right, shakes hands with Chile's President Sebastian Pinera at the La Moneda presidential palace in Santiago, Chile, Friday, Feb. 1, 2013.

Associated Press

Mickelson

Continued from page 17

"But I think it's a good example of what can happen on this course. You can make a lot of birdies and eagles, make up a lot of ground, but there's a lot of water and trouble there that if you misstep you can easily make bogeys and double."

He still tied the Phoenix Open record set by Mark Calcavecchia in 2001, but history slipped through his hands for the second straight day on the last hole.

On Thursday, Mickelson had a 25-foot birdie putt for a 59 on No. 9 that caught the right edge, curled 180 degrees and stayed out. A day later with little at stake on the par-4 hole, he hit to 4 feet and rolled the downhill putt into the center of the cup.

"You always remember kind of the last hole, the last putt," Mickelson said. "But I think it's very possible that's going to help me because it's got me refocused, that I cannot ease up on a single shot. I've got to be really focused. These guys are going to make a lot of bird-



Phil Mickelson hits from the rough on the second hole during the second round of the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Associated Press

ies and I've got to get after it and cannot make those kinds of mistakes."

Mickelson parred the first six holes, and played the next 11 in 8 under before making a mess of the par-4 18th. His drive bounced into the left-side water hazard and, after a penalty drop, he hit an approach that landed on the green and rolled off the front edge. His chip ran 7 feet past and his bogey putt slid by to the left.

"I hit a good shot, I thought," Mickelson said. "I tried to start it right down the middle and hold it into the wind. It just leaked a

little bit left. I still thought it was up. ... Then I hit a poor wedge from there. But the tee shot I didn't think was going to be in the water at any point."

The double bogey left him four strokes ahead of Bill Haas and five in front of Keegan Bradley and Brandt Snedeker. Haas shot 64, Bradley 63, and Snedeker 66.

Mickelson will play alongside Haas and Bradley in the third round.

"Bill and I have played on a Presidents Cup team, and Keegan and I have been partners in the Ryder

Cup and had an incredibly emotional and fun experience together as partners," Mickelson said. "We're going to have a fun day tomorrow."

Mickelson was cruising before the lapse on 18.

The 42-year-old former Arizona State star, who won at TPC Scottsdale in 1996 and 2005, overpowered the par-5 15th for an eagle, hitting to 4 feet after a 358-yard drive.

"I felt really comfortable on the tee box, so I kind of let one go and caught a hold of it and ended up having 191 to the pin," Mickelson said. "It was only 186 to the front, and I hit a hard 8-iron. There was a little bit of helping wind."

After a par on the par-3 16th that drew boos from the rowdy fans on the stadium hole when his tee shot trickled into the fringe, he drove the green on the 344-yard 17th and two-putted from 70 feet — leaving his eagle try a foot short — for birdie.

Bradley also eagled the 15th, hitting a 350-yard drive and a 7-iron approach to 8 feet.

"I just smashed a driver down there," Bradley said. "I had been hitting 3-wood

and I'm driving the ball so well that I just decided to rip driver down there." He birdied the 16th, hitting to 5 feet.

"It reminds me of when I go to Fenway Park," Bradley said. "There's always like a murmur. ... It's really cool. I dig it. I wish there was more holes like that out here." He birdied Nos. 5-8 on his back nine, holing putts of 10 15, 20 and 8 feet.

"It was such a relief to shoot a good number," Bradley said. "I've been playing so well this whole year and haven't made many putts. Today, the putts started to go in."

Haas also began play on No. 10 and made the turn at 6-under 30.

"We all know the way the course is playing, if there's no wind on the weekend, you've just got to keep making birdies," Haas said. Last year in the Northern Trust Open at Riviera, Haas beat Mickelson and Bradley with a 45-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a playoff.

"It's just another day. It's moving day," Haas said. "Hopefully, I can move up the leaderboard and he (Mickelson) doesn't go too crazy." □

Harbaugh brothers could envision working together

DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

Working separately, John and Jim Harbaugh each guided their team to the Super Bowl. They will be on opposite sidelines Sunday, John as head coach of the Baltimore Ravens and Jim with the San Francisco 49ers.

Imagine how effective they could be if working together.

At their joint news conference Friday, someone asked the brothers if they would consider teaming up if either should be forced out of his current post.

"No question about it," John said. "We've had that conversation in the past. It just never really worked out timing-wise. I'd love to work for Jim. It would be the greatest thing in the world."

Jim, coach of the San Francisco 49ers, said, "Definitely, I would work for him."

Super Bowl tradition dictates that the coaches meet with the media separately two days before the Super Bowl. That custom was altered Friday because, after all, two brothers have never before coached against each other in the Super Bowl.

Wearing a dark suit, white shirt, striped tie and laced business shoes, John settled into a director's chair behind a Ravens helmet. Jim, wearing a 49ers hat, a sweat shirt, khaki pants and running shoes, sat in an identical chair behind a San Francisco helmet.

Calling it "an exciting moment," John ticked off the names of family members in attendance, including his parents. They posed for pictures with grandfather

Joe Cipiti on the stage afterward, too.

Jack Harbaugh, their father, was a successful college coach. His sons followed in his footsteps, but on different paths. There was one time, however, when the routes nearly merged.

"We almost made it happen at Stanford at one time," John said. "It would be an honor to have him on the staff. He's a great coach. You always try to get great coaches, and there are none better than Jim Harbaugh, and I mean that seriously. There's no better coach in the National Football League than this guy right here." To which Jim added, "Well, Jack Harbaugh."

The family coaching tree could run even deeper one day. Jim's son, Jay, works for John as a coaching intern with the Ravens. "He's far better than we've anticipated, and I knew he would be great at what he does," John said.

The brothers obviously had a lot of fun with the situation, joking with each other and sometimes acting like a comedy team.

Someone asked them to list their commonalities and philosophical differences. "I would be hard-pressed to spell philosophical right now," Jim said.

"I know he can't spell commonalities," John said, not missing a beat.

Although Jack Harbaugh has received much of the credit for molding the boys into coaches, the brothers revealed that their mother, Jackie, also had a great deal of influence on their growth into men.

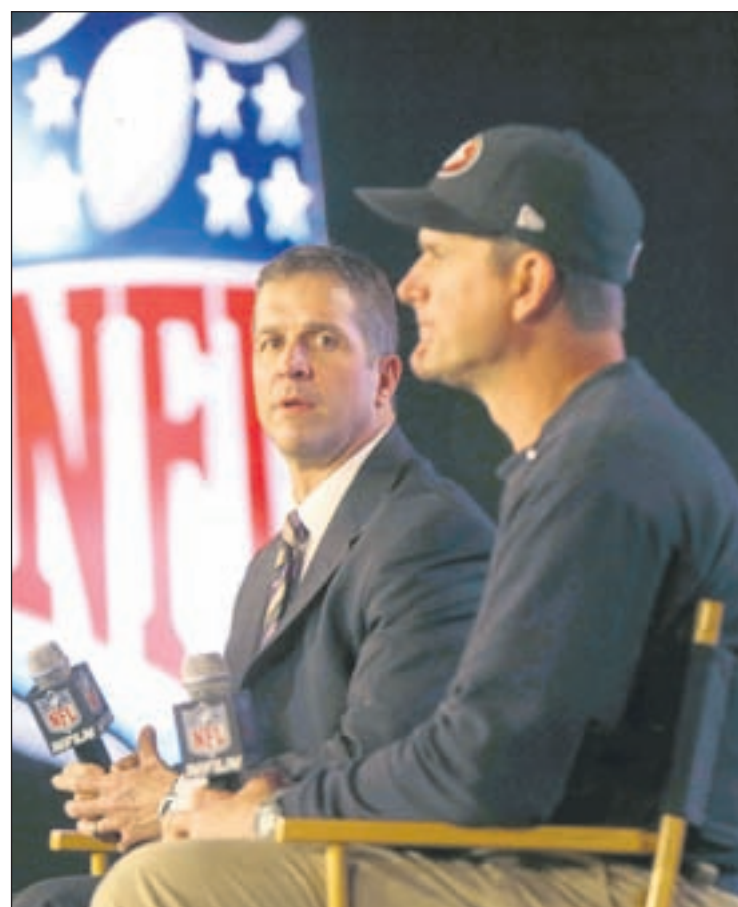
"There is no one in the family who has more competitive fire than my mother. She competes like a maniac. She has just always believed in us, and I think that is the most important thing to me. She believed in me, John, and Joanie, and took us to games and played catch with us, shot baskets with us, and just believed in us."

"No one would fight harder for us than our mom, no matter what the situation

was, or teach us how to have each other's back and be there for one another," John said. "We may have been talking football with dad in the basement, but mom was talking about other things. There were a lot of things going on in our world during the '70s, and Mom was always tuned in on those kinds of things." Someone asked the brothers whether they considered how they will handle the postgame handshake. Jim Harbaugh enraged Detroit Lions coach Jim Schwartz for giving him a quick handshake and a hard backslap after a 2011 game, but that certainly won't be an issue Sunday night.

"I've given absolutely no consideration to the postgame hand shake or bear hug or anything else," John said. "I haven't thought about that for one second. Have you, Jim?"

"I have not," Jim confirmed. □



Brothers Jim Harbaugh, foreground, head coach for the San Francisco 49ers, and John Harbaugh, head coach for the Baltimore Ravens, speak at a news conference for the upcoming Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans, Friday, Feb. 1, 2013.

Associated Press



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Fights have spiked in another shortened NHL season

LARRY LAGE

AP Hockey Writer

DETROIT (AP) — A lockout-delayed and shortened NHL season has created a spike in fights around the league, just as it did the last time labor woes led to a 48-game season.

There were 58 fights through the first 87 games this year, following play on Tuesday, an increase from 39 after the same number of games last season, according to STATS. During the 1994-95 season, there were 83 fights over the first 87 games of that lockout-shortened slate, a jump from 58 during the same stretch previous season.

"Obviously, you have a situation where the players are being thrown into the immediate intensity of a shortened season and that certainly may play a role," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly wrote Thursday in an email to The Associated Press. "We monitor these things as well, and the number of fighting majors have decreased significantly and begun to normalize over the last week. I expect that will continue over the balance of the season."

There were, in fact, fewer fighting penalties than games on Monday for the first time since the season started with 12 fights in 13 games. And on Wednesday, there were six fights in four games.

But there were a season-high 16 fights in 10 games on Tuesday, when Detroit Red Wings forward Jordin Tootoo and fought two different players in the opening period against the Dallas Stars.

Tootoo has been a part of two of the four fights that have started within the first three seconds of a game this season. When the gloves drop soon after the puck does, the fights seem orchestrated by World Wrestling Entertainment decision-makers.

"For me personally, nothing is staged," Tootoo insisted. "It's spontaneous. It's all about the eye contact. You kind of say, 'Let's do it,' without saying a word."



New York Rangers right wing Ryan Callahan (24) and Philadelphia Flyers center Maxime Talbot (25), of Canada, fight in the third period of their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013. The Rangers defeated the Flyers 2-1. Callahan appeared to have been injured during the fight.

Associated Press

Some players say they're unleashing pent-up energy, stored during the four-month lockout.

Others want to give fans what they seem to want. One 25-year-old player acknowledges he's fighting for his job. Nashville Predators forward Richard Clune has been trying to make it back in the NHL since playing in 14 games with the Los Angeles Kings three years ago. He was in three fights in his first five games.

Clune didn't play in Nashville's opener when star defenseman Shea Weber got into a rare fight with Columbus forward Jared Boll, the first NHL player to five fights this season. Clune, perhaps not coincidentally, was in the lineup for the next game and tried to make his presence felt right away by getting penalized for boarding in the opening minutes.

"I play hard and get in the other team's faces and sometimes it results in dropping the gloves," Clune said in a telephone interview before playing on the road against the Kings.

The NHL struggles with its

public stance toward fighting.

The league doesn't want to embrace or encourage the most violent part of its fast-paced, heavy-hitting game during a concussion crisis in sports, and with some of its former enforcers dying young and unexpectedly in 2011.

And yet fans seem to stand and cheer each time gloves drop and fists fly. Red Wings senior vice president Jim Devellano, who has four decades of NHL front-office experience and is in the Hockey Hall of Fame, said he used to be among the majority of people within the game that accept fighting as simply being a part of the sport.

"I've changed 100 percent and I'm now in the minority because I personally could do without fighting," Devellano said. "I don't think it brings anything to the game and there's a lot of violence in society that we have to read about all the time."

"I changed my opinion when Scotty Bowman, who wasn't big on fighting, was

our coach and I saw how beautiful the game can be when you let the talent and the speed of the game take over. I'm not a crusader to stop fighting, but when I've shared my opinion with hockey people, they're not really happy with what I say."

Toronto Maple Leafs coach Randy Carlye, who has two players — Mike Brown and Colton Orr — among the league leaders in fights — said "fisticuffs" are a part of the game that are here to stay.

"I just think it's a fact of life in the NHL that if you're going go out there and you're going to run around, it's going to force confrontation," Carlye said. "Sometimes people try to take advantage of your more skilled players and you have that deterrent."

Getting players injured, though, might deter teams from wanting key players to mix it up.

New York Rangers captain Ryan Callahan will be out for 10 to 14 days after hurting his left shoulder in Tuesday night a scuffle with

Max Talbot ended with the Philadelphia Flyers forward tugging Talbot's arm and dragging him down.

"Maybe we've been out so long and everyone is on edge," Rangers forward Mike Rupp said.

Washington's Jason Chimera had another theory related to the lockout that shortened the 82-season and hit players in their pocket books.

"Maybe they're mad they missed half a year's pay check," Chimera said.

Boll suggested the spike in fights is a result of players being excited to be back on the ice. He also pointed to a theory that can be seen, heard and felt in arenas throughout North America.

"Definitely, if you're the home team you want to get the crowd into it," Boll said. "It's fun. That's what guys do. That's why guys play is to compete and do their job."

"So far it seems like it's been an exciting start to the season. Maybe we're just trying to get the fans back in it." □



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Vokoun shuts out Rangers in Penguins' 3-0 win

NHL Capsules

NEW YORK (AP) — Tomas Vokoun stopped 28 shots for his 49th NHL shutout as the Pittsburgh Penguins scored on the first shot of the first and third periods in a 3-0 victory over the New York Rangers on Thursday night.

Evgeni Malkin gave the Penguins the lead just 1:24 in, James Neal added a power-play goal 28 seconds into the third — after another costly too many men on the ice penalty for the Rangers — and Simon Despres netted his second NHL goal to give Pittsburgh (4-3) its second win in five games. Malkin added an assist, as did captain Sidney Crosby, on Neal's goal. Pittsburgh is winless at home but 4-1 on the road. The Penguins have two wins in New York this season, one fewer than the host Rangers (3-4), who had won three of four overall.

New York struggled to generate offense in its first game without captain Ryan Callahan, expected to be sidelined 10-14 games by a shoulder injury sustained Tuesday in a win against Philadelphia.

SHARKS 3, OILERS 2, SO SAN JOSE, California, Michal Handzus and Dan Boyle scored in the shootout to help San Jose beat Edmonton, extending the best start in franchise history with its seventh straight win.

Logan Couture and Joe Pavelski scored unassisted goals off turnovers 39 seconds apart in the second period against Devan Dubnyk to break open a scoreless game. Antti Niemi made 26 saves as the

Sharks remained the only unbeaten team in the NHL. San Gagner scored in the second period and Taylor Hall tied it in the opening minute of the third for the Oilers, who had won two straight. Dubnyk made 36 saves, including seven in an overtime that included a San Jose power play.

PREDATORS 2, KINGS 1, SO LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sergei Kostitsyn scored in the eighth shootout round and Nashville snapped its three-game skid with a victory over Los Angeles.

Pekka Rinne made 23 saves and stopped five of Los Angeles' eight shootout attempts as the Predators overcame a weak offensive performance thanks to their Finnish goalie's sturdiness and a timely shot by Kostitsyn, who finally ended the long shootout.

Dustin Brown scored his first goal of the season for the Stanley Cup champions, who are off to a 2-2-2 start. Jonathan Quick stopped 13 shots for the Kings, whose NHL-worst power play went 1 for 6 while Nashville and Los Angeles slogged through a largely dull game between two of the NHL's lowest-scoring teams.

Brandon Yip scored in the opening minute of the Predators' fifth stop on a seven-game trip.

SABRES 7, BRUINS 4

BOSTON (AP) — Thomas Vanek had three goals and two assists, setting up the tiebreaking score with 13:06 left in the third period to lead Buffalo over Boston. Vanek opened the scoring 98 seconds into the game, then had a goal and an assist to tie it after Boston took a 3-1 lead in the second. The Bruins went up 4-3 in the third before Alexan-



The puck rolls under New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30), of Sweden, as he makes a save in the second period of their NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins in New York, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013.

Associated Press

der Sulzer tied it, and then Vanek helped give the Sabres the lead with a pass to Cody Hodgson for the game-winner.

Ryan Miller made 38 saves for Buffalo, which ended a four-game winless streak. Tuukka Rask stopped 25 shots for the Bruins.

Vanek completed his eighth career hat trick with 1:31 left. He has 54 points in 46 career games against the Bruins.

Brad Marchand scored two goals and Rich Peverley and David Krejci had one apiece for Boston (5-1-1), which was trying to equal the best start in franchise history.

ISLANDERS 5, DEVILS 4, OT NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— Brad Boyes scored a power-play goal on a rebound at 2:01 of overtime and New York handed New Jersey its third straight loss in overtime.

John Tavaras scored twice, and Keith Aucoin and Mark Streit once for the Islanders, who avenged an opening-

night loss to the Devils. Evgeni Nabokov made 28 saves, including a big one on an early Devils power play in overtime.

Adam Henrique, Steve Bernier, Ryan Carter and Henrik Tallinder scored for the Devils, who three times rallied to tie it. Martin Brodeur made 30 saves but had the puck stolen from him

by Boyes, setting up the game-winner.

BLUES 4, BLUE JACKETS 1

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Barret Jackman, Patrik Berglund and Vladimir Tarasenko each scored in the opening 14 minutes, Brian Elliott made 24 saves and St. Louis beat Columbus for its fourth straight victory. □

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EU: Drugmakers paid to delay generics

JAMES KANTER
KATIE THOMAS

© The New York Times

BRUSSELS – European antitrust officials accused the drug giants Johnson & Johnson and Novartis on Thursday of colluding to delay availability of a less expensive, generic version of a powerful medication often used to ease severe pain in cancer patients. The case focuses on monthly payments that a Netherlands-based subsidiary of the U.S. company Johnson & Johnson made to Sandoz, a unit of the Swiss company Novartis. While the companies have said the payments were legitimate, the European Union's antitrust chief said Thursday that the money probably changed hands

sides of the Atlantic concluding that such deals are anti-competitive. In the U.S., the Supreme Court is scheduled to take up the issue in March.

Typically, such arrangements are a result of patent disputes between brand-name and generic drugmakers, although no such dispute was mentioned in the most recent case involving Johnson & Johnson and Novartis.

"From our perspective in the United States, we hope to have a real resolution of this issue with the Supreme Court this term," said Jay Lefkowitz, a lawyer who has represented several drug companies in such cases. But because many companies sell their products around the world,

cially in this period of constraints on public spending," he said.

A goal of European authorities has been to increase patient access to less costly medicines as name-brand drug patents worth tens of billions of euros expire. The end of a drug's patent protection – typically up to 25 years in Europe – can hurt a pharmaceutical company's bottom line but benefits governments and private insurers by lowering their costs.

Patent expirations also open opportunities for generic competitors, which is why in some cases drugmakers have been accused of paying generic competitors to delay bringing their products to market.

A preliminary investigation by Almunia's office found that Janssen-Cilag made the payments to stop Novartis from selling generic fentanyl in the Netherlands for more than a year, from July 2005 until December 2006. That kept prices artificially high, according to the European Commission, the EU's administrative body that enforces anti-trust law.

Both companies will have the chance to formally respond to the accusation. The commission, which first announced the inquiry in October 2011, can fine companies up to 10 percent of their annual global sales for antitrust abuses. Penalties are typically lower, though, because officials usually base fines on sales of the main product involved in the case, and then increase the amount based on the duration of the offense and other factors.

Fentanyl is a painkiller that is stronger than morphine, according to the commission. In skin-patch form, which is the type at issue in the investigation, the drug is used to relieve moderate to severe pain that lasts for a long time, does not go away and cannot be treated with other medications, according to the website of the U.S. National Library of Medicine. □



Agreements to delay introduction of generic drugs onto the market have come under heightened scrutiny in both Europe and the United States in recent years. Novartis and Johnson & Johnson are presently being investigated for such practices.

(Handout Photo)

to keep lower-cost versions of a drug called fentanyl off the market in the Netherlands.

European authorities are "determined to fight undue delays in the market entry of generic medicines," Joaquin Almunia, the EU competition commissioner, said in a statement this week.

His office would not disclose the amount of money the Johnson & Johnson unit in the Netherlands, Janssen-Cilag, paid to Sandoz. Nor would officials indicate whether the investigation would go beyond the Netherlands.

Agreements to delay the introduction of generic drugs have come under heightened scrutiny in both Europe and the United States in recent years, with regulators on both

"this is something that people are taking note of, for sure."

Fentanyl is widely used in Europe and the United States, typically paid for by government-provided health plans or, in many U.S. cases, by private insurance. Although the pricing of such drugs is usually negotiated behind closed doors, generic versions are typically much cheaper.

Almunia warned pharmaceutical companies against practices that raised costs for European governments, squeezed by austerity and an economic slowdown, which must buy medicines for state-supported health care plans. It is "important to make sure that pharmaceutical companies do not free-ride our welfare state and health insurance systems, espe-



Few people associate memory with the heart, but they are related. The healthier the heart, the healthier the brain!

(Handout Photo)

Healthy heart helps to fight against dementia

Marjie Gilliam

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

Q: I am taking care of my aging parents, and I am realizing that their memory is getting much worse. I've heard about the importance of brain training to help combat conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's, but I'm not sure what it is. Can you help?

A: Scientists know that memory is linked to many factors. While there is no magic pill that guarantees the ability to retain and recall information, there are steps we all can take to help improve the chances of staying sharp.

Few people associate memory with the heart, but they are related. The healthier the heart, the healthier the brain.

Knowing your numbers can give you a good starting point from which to assess your current state of health. Start by recording your weight and waistline measurement, and have your blood pressure and cholesterol levels checked, and if they are elevated, take a good look at your lifestyle habits. The brain must be supplied with sufficient oxygen and nutrients in order for the cells to stay alive and work properly. Conditions that reduce blood flow can starve these all-important brain cells. Move to improve. Regular physical activity has been shown to decrease the risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease by nearly half. Strive for at least 30 minutes a day. Sleep. Imaging of the

brain and behavioral studies show the impact that sleep deprivation has on learning and memory. The ability to remember is tied to the memory becoming stable in the brain, a function known as consolidation. It is believed that inadequate sleep interferes with consolidation. Strive for seven to eight hours of sleep nightly. Workouts aren't just for the body. Thoughts dictate action, making brain training just as important as physical training. Throughout your lifetime, your brain is capable of adapting, reorganizing and even building new neural pathways (dubbed the "information highways" of the brain). These neural pathways form the basis of your cognitive skills, which not only make up IQ but also influence your ability to process, retain and recall information. Chill out! We live in a fast-paced society, and many of us are on the go from the moment we wake up in the morning. This makes it all the more important to seek out ways to de-stress and regroup. The body reacts to chronic stress by increasing production of the hormone cortisol, which has been linked to memory loss. Don't smoke. Aside from increasing your risk of lung damage and heart disease, smoking can affect blood flow to the brain. One study on the effects of smoking on more 5,000 people concluded that smokers were much less likely to retain information. □

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Research firm: Apple now biggest U.S. phone seller

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The launch of the iPhone 5 and the declining popularity of non-smartphones have made Apple the biggest seller of phones in the U.S. for the first time, research firm Strategy Analytics said Friday. The firm estimates that Apple shipped 17.7 million iPhones of all kinds to U.S. buyers in the October to December period, meaning it accounted for one in three new phones.

Samsung Electronics of Korea was close behind, shipping 16.8 million phones, including non-smart ones. Samsung has been the largest seller of phones to the U.S. market since 2008, Strategy Analytics said.

NPD Group, another research firm, found that Samsung phones still outsold the iPhone in the quarter, by 31 percent to 29 percent. It tracks retail sales while Strategy Analytics tracks shipments, so the numbers are not directly comparable. Worldwide, it's clear that Samsung is still the biggest phone vendor with

23 percent of the market, according to a third research firm, IDC. Apple is number three, with 9.9 percent of the market. In between sits Nokia with 17.9 percent.

Samsung beats Apple globally even when only smartphones are considered. It shipped 63.7 million units worldwide versus Apple's 47.8 million.

IPhones are more expensive than most Samsung smartphones. They're well within reach for U.S. buyers, but not for buyers in the developing world, where cheaper phones running Google Inc.'s Android operating system dominate.

In the U.S., iPhone sales are usually very strong in the first few months after a new model is released. They then taper off. That means Samsung could regain the phone crown as early as this quarter, as measured by Strategy Analytics.

NPD said the iPhone 5 was the single most popular phone in the U.S. in the holiday quarter. The Samsung Galaxy S III was No. 2, followed by the older iPhone models, the 4S and 4.□



Shia LaBeouf, a cast member in "The Necessary Death of Charlie Countryman," poses for an iPhone photo on Main Street during the sixth day of the Sundance Film Festival, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

Sony likely to unveil next PlayStation on Feb. 20

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sony is poised to unveil the next PlayStation game console on Feb. 20, a date that would give the Japanese electronics company a head start over Microsoft's expected announcement of an Xbox 360 successor in June.

Sony Corp. invited journalists to an evening press event in New York City. The company has not said what it plans to show off, but signs indicate that it'll

be the PlayStation 4. Sony would only say that it "will deliver and speak about the future PlayStation business."

Such a console would follow Nintendo's Wii U, which launched last fall, and precede Microsoft Corp.'s next Xbox game console, which will likely be unveiled in June at the E3 video game conference in Los Angeles. Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter said it's a "super smart" move for Sony to pre-empt Microsoft. This

way, the PlayStation 4 will get the spotlight without much competition.

The currently available PlayStation 3 went on sale in 2006, a year after the Xbox 360. But Xbox 360 has been more popular, largely because of its robust online service, Xbox Live, which allows people to play games with others online. The Wii is still the top seller among the three consoles, though it has lost momentum in recent years.

The Wii U was the first of the newest generation of video

game consoles to launch, but sales so far have been disappointing. Nintendo Co.'s president, Satoru Iwata, acknowledged recently that the Wii U and the handheld Nintendo 3DS didn't do well over the holidays, but he ruled out a price cut for the new console.

All three console makers are trying to position their devices as entertainment hubs that go beyond games as they try to stay relevant in the age of smartphones and tablet

computers. Such hubs can deliver TV shows, movies and music.

The Wii U has a TV-watching feature called TVii. With it, the console's touch-screen GamePad controller becomes a remote control for your TV and set-top box. TVii groups your favorite shows and sports events together, whether it's on live TV or an Internet video service such as Hulu Plus. And it offers water-cooler moments you can chat about on social media.□

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US-based automakers, Toyota report big sales gains

DEE DURBIN
TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — American consumers ignored tax increases and tromped through the winter chill to buy new cars and trucks at an unusually strong pace last month.

"(January) was like a sprinter out of the starting blocks," said Mike Jackson, CEO of AutoNation Inc., the largest U.S. auto dealership chain.

Analysts said it will likely be the best January in five years once all automakers report. Sales at Toyota rose 27 percent, and they were up 22 percent at Ford. GM and Chrysler each reported 16 percent gains compared with a year earlier. The figures so far show that the auto industry remains a bright spot in a tepid U.S.



Chevy trucks line the lot of a dealer in Murrysville, Pa. Ford, Chrysler and General Motors all reported double-digit gains for January as last year's momentum in U.S. auto sales continued into 2013, according to reports Friday, Feb. 1, 2013.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

economic recovery. The results left the industry optimistic about the new year. Businesses bought more trucks. Consumers — whose cars have reached a record average of 11.3 years old — are ready to

buy, and banks are making it easier with low interest rates and looser credit terms.

The stock market may also have inspired car buyers — the Standard & Poor's 500 index had its strongest Jan-

uary since 1997. Also, employers have been hiring at a steady if not spectacular pace.

"We're in a fundamentally sound trajectory," said Mustafa Mohatarem, chief economist for GM. He said the recovery from the Great Recession in 2008 is still modest, but "those recoveries tend to be much more sustainable."

Whatever the incentive, people didn't let chilly weather, or the heavier hand of the U.S. Treasury, stop them from car shopping.

Chrysler estimated that total U.S. industry sales hit an annual rate of 15.5 million in January. If that holds for the rest of the year, automakers will sell 1 million more vehicles than in 2012, when sales rose 13 percent. □

U.S. adds 157,000 jobs; jobless rate edges up to 7.9%

CATHERINE RAMPPELL
© 2013 New York Times

American employers added 157,000 jobs in January compared with a revised 196,000 jobs the previous month, the Labor Department reported Friday. The unemployment rate was little changed at 7.9 percent, about where it has been stuck since September.

On the bright side, revised government data showed that the economy added

335,000 more jobs than originally estimated during all of 2012, including an additional 150,000 in the last quarter of the year. That was on top of the previously reported fourth-quarter job growth of 603,000 and 2012 growth of 2.2 million.

The higher revisions, in particular, encouraged traders on Wall Street, sending the Dow Jones industrial average over the 14,000-point mark for the first time since 2007.

Still, job growth has been modest compared with previous recoveries, and economists saw little in January's report to suggest that hiring would pick up soon.

"I think it's going to be a tough slog here," said Joshua Shapiro, chief U.S. economist for MFR Inc.

"There are plenty of headwinds out there for the economy. The cost of hiring somebody is great, with benefit costs and everything, and unless com-

panies really absolutely need someone, they're not going to hire."

Construction has been one of the more encouraging sectors, adding jobs each of the last four months.

The hiring there was probably because of a combination of rebuilding from Hurricane Sandy, unseasonably warm weather that led to fewer work stoppages, and the nascent housing recovery, said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macro-

Mattel 4Q results miss Wall Street's expectations

MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a blue Christmas in toyland. Weak demand over the holidays for toys like Barbie and Matchbox led Mattel's results to fall short of expectations in the key holiday quarter. A litigation charge also weighed on results and net income fell 17 percent.

Still the results from the world's largest toymaker came in stronger than the overall toy industry, and company executives vowed to do better

in 2013. The fourth quarter is key because toy makers can make up to 40 percent of annual sales during the period.



Weak demand over the holidays for toys caused Mattel's results to fall short of expectations in 4Q

The news follows smaller-rival Hasbro's announce-

ment last week that the maker of Scrabble and Furby robotic pets would cut jobs after revenue came in lower than expected for the quarter on weak demand. Toy makers are facing a slowdown in developed markets such as the U.S. and Europe as mobile devices and electronics steal attention from toys and consumers hold back on spending due to the uncertain economy.

In 2012, overall U.S. toy sales declined slightly to \$16.5 billion from \$16.6 billion, according to research

firm the NPD Group.

During the holiday quarter, consumers faced what Mattel CEO Bryan Stockton called the "1, 2, 3 economic punch," of shrinking GDP, waning consumer confidence and worry over the fiscal cliff.

"I'm not satisfied with our US consumer take away and look to do better in 2013," said Stockton, who just finished his first year as Mattel's CEO. "Looking toward 2013, my second year as CEO, we see continued growth in the industry and plan to grow at Mattel." □

Dow closes above 14,000 for first time since 2007

CHRISTINA REXRODE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow closed above 14,000 on Friday for the first time in more than five years.

Sure, it was just a number on a board. But it was enough to raise the hopes of some investors and cause others concern about an overheated market. And it brought reminders of a different era, back before the financial crisis rocked the world economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average, a stock market index that is supposed to be a benchmark for how the entire market is faring, had been rising fairly steadily for about a month. On Friday, strong auto sales and optimism about U.S. jobs pushed it over the mark. The Dow is now just 155 points away from its highest close ever.

"There's a newfound enthusiasm for the equity

market," said Jim Russell, regional investment director at U.S. Bank Wealth Management in Minneapolis. But market watchers were divided over what the Dow milestone — or even what a potential new all-time high — really means. To some, it's an important booster to hearts and minds, making investors feel optimistic and thus more willing to bet on the market. "The Dow touching 14,000, it matters psychologically," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital in New York. "It attracts smaller investors."

The Dow ended Friday 149.21 points, or 1.1 percent, higher to 14,009.79. The other indexes were also up. The S&P 500 rose 15.06, or 1 percent, to 1,513.17. The Nasdaq composite index was up 36.97, or 1.2 percent, to 3,179.10. Since April 2011, investors

have pulled more cash out of U.S. stock mutual funds than they've put in, according to the Investment Company Institute. In the past three weeks, though, that trend has reversed,



A screen on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on Friday, Feb. 1, 2013, shows the Dow Jones industrial average above 14,000 for the first time since October 2007. Evidence that the U.S. economic recovery is firmly on track drove markets higher on Friday, adding to the cheer from good economic indicators out of Europe. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

which could make January the first month in nearly two years where stock-focused funds had a net inflow.

To others, though, Dow

14,000 is nothing but a number, a sign more of how traders feel than of the economy. And it's not even the best number on the board, some traders say. Professional investors

usually pay more heed to the Standard & Poor's main index, which tracks 500 companies compared to the Dow's 30. The Dow

garners attention, they say, because it's more familiar to the general public.

Joe Gordon, managing partner at Gordon Asset Management in North Carolina, wasn't celebrating Friday. He thinks the gains won't last. The fact that small investors are finally piling back in the stock market, he said, is not a reason for optimism but a sign that it's getting overhyped and due to fall.

After the Dow hit its all-time record in 2007, it fell almost steadily for the next year and a half. It lost more than half its value before starting to tick back up again.

"It is good trivia to talk about on television and the radio," Gordon said, referring to the 14,000 mark. "It's meaningless to the average professional." And for workers still unemployed by the financial crisis, he said, "it really means nothing to them." □

Refining margins boost 4Q profit at Exxon Mobil

DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Exxon Mobil Corp. said Friday that fourth-quarter earnings rose 6 percent to \$9.95 billion with help from higher refining profit margins. The oil giant barely missed a record for full-year earnings. It earned \$44.88 billion in 2012, about \$340 million shy of its 2008 mark of \$45.22 billion, an all-time

high for a publicly traded company.

Exxon still makes most of its money by producing oil and gas, but that end of the business was less profitable than a year ago because of lower prices and production. The company made up the difference in the refining business.

The biggest U.S. oil company said Friday that net income equaled \$2.20 per

share, compared with \$9.4 billion, or \$1.97 per share, a year earlier. But revenue fell 5 percent to \$115.17 billion, a drop of \$6.44 billion. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected profit of \$1.99 per share on revenue of \$115.22 billion.

Profit from exploration and production of oil and gas fell 12 percent but still totaled \$7.76 billion, more than three-fourths

of Exxon's income for the quarter. Production fell 5 percent, oil prices dipped, and the company took in less money from asset sales.

Exxon produces most of its oil outside the United States. Profit from overseas production tumbled by nearly one-fifth, but Exxon partly offset that by boosting its profit from U.S. production by more than one-

third.

Outside of exploration and production, most of Exxon's other profit comes from refining and selling petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. That business did very well in the fourth quarter, earning \$1.8 billion, an increase of more than \$1.3 billion from a year earlier, mainly due to higher refining margins. □

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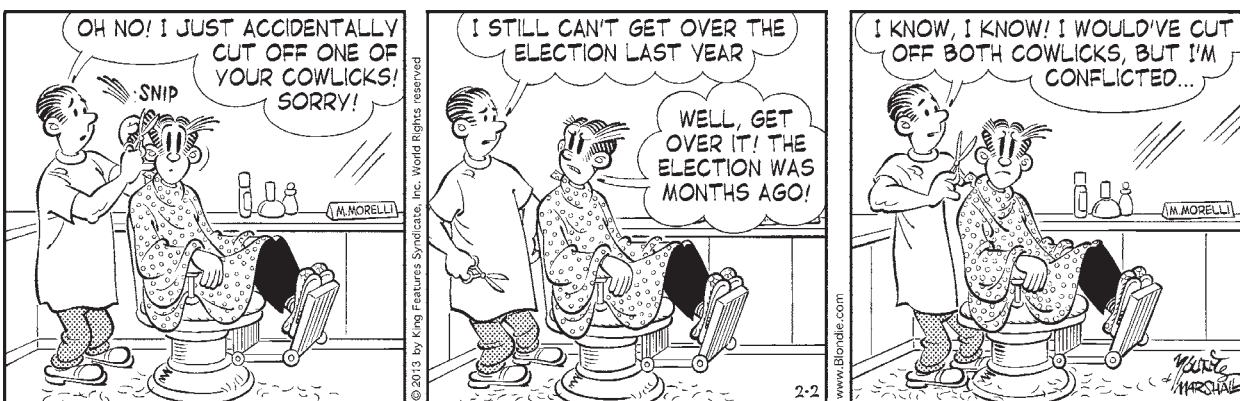
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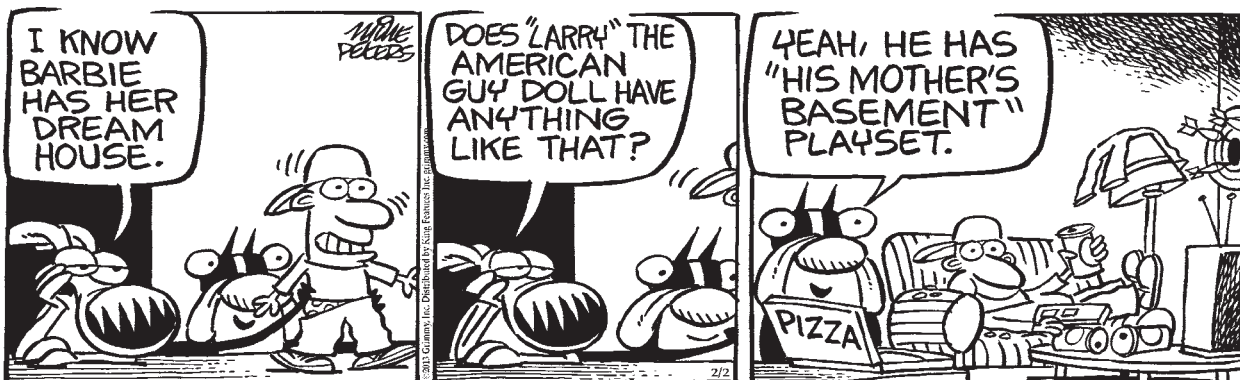
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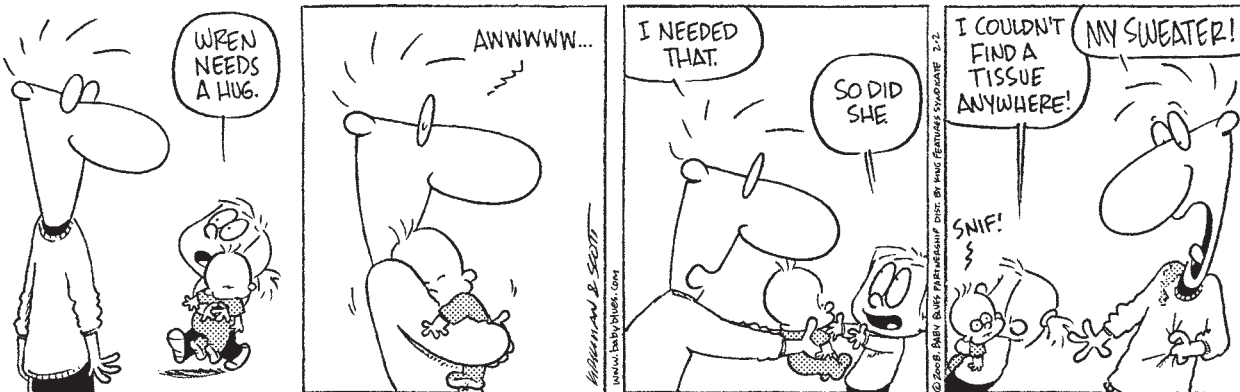
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5		7	2		9		
6					9			8
2		6						4
			9	3				
8						7		1
7			4					6
	3		1	5		8		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

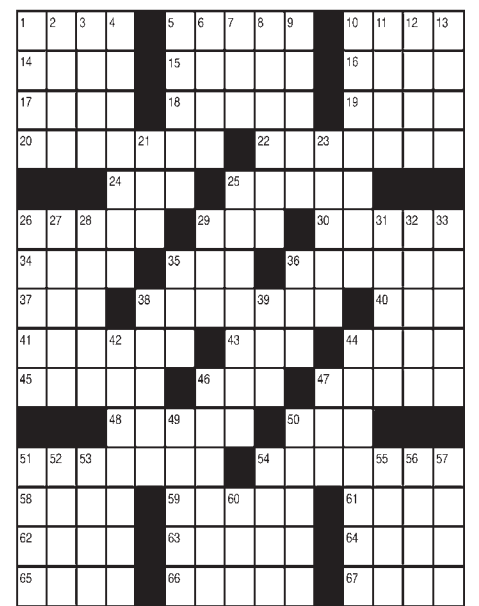
5	2	1	6	4	8	7	9	3
6	9	4	3	7	2	8	5	1
3	7	8	1	5	9	4	6	2
8	1	2	5	9	6	3	4	7
4	6	5	7	8	3	2	1	9
9	3	7	4	2	1	5	8	6
1	5	3	2	6	4	9	7	8
2	4	9	8	1	7	6	3	5
7	8	6	9	3	5	1	2	4

ACROSS

- Detest
- Snatches
- Reveal a secret
- "Sesame!"; Ali Baba's line
- Soldier's gun
- Gray wolf
- Period before Easter
- Role player
- Exclusively
- Ultra
- Electrical failures
- Golfer Ernie
- Fess up
- Evening coffee, perhaps
- Not longer; no more
- Approaches
- Unslightly growth
- Huge
- McArdle or Mitchell
- Years lived
- Lithe, like a fluttering tree
- "Brylcreem, a little 'll do ya..."
- Compensated
- Female sheep
- Spanish bull
- Psychoanalyst Sigmund
- Indignation
- Most awful
- College officials
- Passing craze
- Rainy seasons
- Opposite of "Whoa!"
- Money, slangily
- Burr or Spelling
- Misplace
- Additionally
- Ridiculous
- Moran or Gray
- Lager
- More modern
- Use a Kindle

DOWN

- Gap; opening
- Highest tip



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/2/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	D	G	E	S	L	O	P		M	A	P	S
I	D	E	A	L		H	I	D	E		A	B	E
A	G	A	Z	E		U	N	D	O		L	U	T
R	E	L	E	V	A	N	T		P	H	A	S	E
		B	A	G	S		P	L	A				
P	E	Y	O	T	E		V	E	E	R	S		
A	V	E		E	N	D	E		D	I	A	N	A
P	E	A	R		T	O	G	A	S		A	X	E
A	S	H	E	S		G	A	L	E	S		L	A
		C	A	B	I	N		L	I	N	E	R	S
F	A	T	I	G	U	E		F	L	E	E		
A	B	A	T	E	D		P	A	S	S	W	O	R
C	O	C	A		G	R	A	B		T	E	H	E
E	V	I	L		E	A	R	L		A	S	I	A
S	E	T	S		T	Y	K	E		S	T	O	R

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2/2/13

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 39 Be in the red | 52 Warsaw native |
| 42 Reviewer of the financial books | 53 Got up |
| 44 Little child | 54 No longer here |
| 46 Foolish | 55 Days of _; |
| 47 Fistful of cash | 56 Iraq's continent |
| 49 Once more | 57 Remain |
| 50 Not as coarse | 58 unsettled |
| 51 Concrete piece | 60 Uncooked |

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Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

Emergency
Numbers



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Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police Station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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Respetami
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Arubano
 Tel: 583-3808
Narcotics Anonymous
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Foundation Amor
pa Prohimo
 Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties
Foundation
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APNewsBreak: U.S.: Warming imperils wolverines

MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Montana (AP)

— The tenacious wolverine, a snow-loving carnivore sometimes called the “mountain devil,” is being added to the list of species threatened by climate change — a dubious distinction that puts it in the ranks of the polar bear and several other animals that could see their habitats shrink drastically due to warming temperatures. Federal wildlife officials Friday proposed Endangered Species Act protections for the wolverine in the Lower 48 states. That’s a step twice denied under the Bush administration, then delayed in 2010 when the Obama administration said other imperiled species had priority. It’s likely to mean an end to trapping the animals for their fur.

But U.S. said they won’t use the animal’s status as a means to regulate the greenhouse gases blamed in climate change. And other human activities — from snowmobiling and skiing to infrastructure development and transportation corridors — would not be curtailed because they do not appear to be significant threats to wolverines, officials said. There are an estimated 250 to 300 wolverines in the contiguous U.S., clustered in small, isolated groups primarily in the Northern Rockies of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington. Larger populations persist in Alaska and Canada.

Maxing out at 40 pounds (18 kilograms) and tough enough to stand up to grizzly bears, the animals will be no match for anticipated declines in deep moun-



This July 2007 image provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society shows a female wolverine and her cubs taken in the Gravelly Range of southwest Montana.

tain snows female wolverines need to establish dens and raise their young, scientists said.

In some areas suitable habitat could disappear entirely, officials said.

Yet because those losses could take decades to unfold, federal wildlife officials said there’s still time to bolster the population, including by reintroducing them to the high mountains of Colorado.

“This is a species there is still time to do something about,” said Mike Thabault, ecological services director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s mountain-prairie region.



This undated image provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows a badger. Add the tenacious wolverine, a snow-loving predator sometimes called the “mountain devil,” to the list of species the government says is threatened by climate change.

Associated Press

Wildlife advocates, who sued to force the government to act on the issue, said the animal’s plight should be used by the Obama administration to leverage tighter restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions. As with the polar bear, the government is seeking to sidestep that

thorny proposition by not addressing threats outside the wolverine’s immediate range. Thabault said the agency would be on tenuous scientific grounds if it tried to draw a link between specific emission sources and impacts on wolverines. Advocates expressed disappointment, with Noah Greenwald from the Center for Biological Diversity saying the administration “should not be exempting greenhouse gas emissions from the Endangered Species Act.”

John Martin, a Washington, D.C. attorney for the energy industry during litigation over polar bears, said he doesn’t expect any change in the administration’s policy against using endangered wildlife to regulate emissions.

Friday’s proposal would allow Colorado’s wildlife agency to reintroduce an experimental population of wolverines that eventually could spill into neighboring portions of New Mexico and Wyoming. But the proposal would shut

down wolverine trapping in Montana, the only one of the Lower 48 states where the practice is still allowed. Once found throughout the Rocky Mountains and in California’s Sierra Nevada mountain range, wolverines were wiped out across most of the U.S. by the 1930s due to unregulated trapping and poisoning campaigns, said Bob Inman, a wolverine researcher with the Wildlife Conservation Society.

In the decades since, they have largely recovered in the Northern Rockies but not in other parts of their historical range.

While reintroducing the animals further south might seem counterintuitive, Inman said Colorado’s abundance of 14,000-foot (4,300-meter) mountains make it ideally suited as a refuge for the animals as warmer temperatures set in at lower elevations.

Only one wolverine currently inhabits the state, a male that wandered down several years ago from northern Wyoming. □

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Meet 3 keeping 'The Phantom of the Opera' running

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Over the past quarter of a century, 37 different actresses have played the female lead in "The Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway. All 37 have been dressed by one woman: Erna Dias.

"I have no favorites. You can't do that," says Dias, who has been a wardrobe attendant with the show at the Majestic Theater in New York since rehearsals began. She oversees each actress' 16 nightly costume changes — one so short she has only 34 seconds to get it done — and has rearranged her vacations to ensure she's present for each new heroine making her debut as Christine Daae.

"To keep this fresh, when I come in, I try to think of every night as opening night," she says. "I've been in this business 36 years and I never thought this show was going to last this long. This is unbelievable."

The show is celebrating its record-setting silver anniversary and it has eye-popping numbers — grossing over \$887 million, using 1,600 tons of dry ice and having its famous chandelier travel 4 million feet. But behind the numbers and behind the scenes, it is people like Dias who have kept "The Phantom of the Opera" going, one outfit at a time.

It's people like David Caddick, the Grammy-winning musical supervisor who also frequently conducts the show dressed in Edwardian tails. His hair has grown gray over the 25 years he's been with "Phantom."

"It keeps going because people want it to keep going," says Caddick, who leads the show's tours as well. "We have an audience that keeps coming back, and a new audience who have never seen it, and everyone's very grateful for that."

The musical opened on London's West End at the 1,200-seat Her Majesty's Theatre on Oct. 9, 1986, with Michael Crawford

and Sarah Brightman in the lead roles. It crossed the Atlantic and opened on Broadway on Jan. 26, 1988, and has clocked more than 10,400 performances, becoming the Great White Way's longest-running show ever.

"Every single show is a pioneer into the future. Every single one makes it that much further," says actor Richard Poole, who has played Joseph Buquet in the show for 14 1/2 years. "It's an incredible blessing to be in something like this because you don't go into this business for security."

Based on a novel by Gaston Leroux, "Phantom" tells the story of a deformed composer who haunts the Paris Opera House and falls madly in love with an innocent young soprano, Christine. Andrew Lloyd Webber's lavish songs include "Masquerade," "Angel of Music," "All I Ask of You," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "The Music of the Night." The musical has played to over 130 million people in 27 countries and has grossed over \$5.6 billion worldwide — more than any film in history, including "Avatar," "Titanic," "Gone With the Wind" and "Star Wars."

In the New York production, Poole plays an unpleasant, drunken opera stagehand who is killed before intermission — "It's rough dying eight times a week," he cracks — but returns to play various other smaller roles the rest of the night. He's a classic team player.

"Even the short time that I've been here — comparatively — I see people come and go, but I see the standard — the benchmark — remain the same," he says. "That is attributed to the people who are really in it every single day, week, month, year, decade." The show has endured through blackouts, 9/11, economic recessions and Superstorm Sandy, a flood in the theater due to plumbing problems and one Christine popping her Achilles tendon. It also sur-

vived Poole losing some teeth.

He explains that a few years back, he cracked five teeth on a piece of equipment but kept going that week with some temporary teeth. Then, one night onstage, he said the word "ghost" and two of his temporaries flew out of his mouth, landing several feet away at the foot of another actor.

"I'm realizing at that point that these teeth are worth a lot more than my dignity of picking them up," he says. "I thought, 'I'm a stagehand.' I reached down, picked them up and put them back in. Everyone was going, 'Ugh!' — which is perfect for the



In this Jan. 24, 2013, photo, actor Richard Poole, left, dresser Erna Dias, center, and musical supervisor David Caddick pose for a photo in front of "The Phantom of the Opera" stage at the Majestic Theater in New York.

Associated Press

character."

What has fueled Dias, Caddick and Poole every night for all these years has

been the sense of obligation they have to inspire another generation and pass along their passion. □

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Sylvester Stallone supports assault weapon ban

RYAN PEARSON

AP Entertainment Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

Sylvester Stallone says that despite his "Rambo" image and new shoot-em-up film "Bullet to the Head," he's in favor of new national gun control legislation.

Stallone supported the 1994 "Brady bill" that included a now-expired ban on assault weapons, and hopes that ban can be reinstated.

"I know people get (upset) and go, 'They're going to take away the assault weapon.' Who ... needs an assault weapon? Like really, unless you're carrying out an assault. ... You can't hunt with it. ... Who's going to attack your house, a (expletive) army?"

The 66-year-old actor, writer and director said he also hopes for an additional focus on mental health to prevent future mass shootings.

"It's unbelievably horrible, what's happened. I think the biggest problem, seriously, is not so much guns. It's that every one of these people that have done these things in the past 30 years are friggin' crazy. Really crazy! And that's where we've dropped the ball: mental health," he said. "That to me is our biggest problem in the future, is insanity coupled with isolation."

Stallone is now in production on his next project, pairing up with the former "Raging Bull" Robert De Niro for "Grudge Match," about

two aging boxers.

"People think it's going to be some geezer brawl. Really? OK, they're in for a surprise. I'm telling you. I've been working on the fight, the choreography. He's taking it deadly serious. Because no one wants to be shown up," Stallone said of De Niro. "It's going to be like a 'Rocky' fight. This will be 'Rocky 7,' with me fighting — with Rocky fighting the 'Raging Bull.'" □

Actor Sylvester Stallone attends the "Bullet To The Head" premiere at AMC Lincoln Square on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013 in New York. Associated Press



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A Second Gop



DAVID BROOKS
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On the surface, Republicans are already doing a good job of beginning to change their party. Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana gave a speech to the Republican National Committee calling on Republicans to stop being the stupid party, to stop insulting the intelligence of the American people.

Rep. Paul Ryan gave a fine speech to the National Review Institute calling for prudence instead of spasmodic protest. The new senator for Texas, Ted Cruz, gave a speech to the same gathering saying the Republicans should be focusing on the least fortunate 47 percent of Americans.

But, so far, there have been more calls for change than actual evidence of change. In his speech, for example, Jindal spanked his party for its stale clichés but then repeated the same Republican themes that have earned his party its 33 percent approval ratings: Government bad. Entrepreneurs good.

In this reinvention process, Republicans seem to have spent no time talking to people who didn't already vote for them.

Change is hard because people don't only think on the surface level. Deep down people have mental maps of reality — embedded sets of assumptions, narratives and terms that organize thinking. Since Barry Goldwater, the central Republican narrative has been what you might call the Encroachment Story: The core problem of American life is that voracious government has been steadily encroaching upon individuals and local communities. The core American conflict, in this view, is between Big Government and Personal Freedom. While losing the popular vote in five of the past six presidential elections, the flaws of this mentality have become apparent. First, if opposing government is your primary objective, it's hard to have a positive governing program.

As Bill Kristol pointed out at the National Review event, the GOP fiercely opposed the Dodd-Frank financial regulation law but never offered an alternative. The party opposed Obamacare but never offered a replacement. John Podhoretz of Commentary added that as soon as Republicans start talking about what kind of regulations and programs that government should promote, they get accused by colleagues of being Big Government conservatives.

The next problem with this mentality is that it makes it hard for Republicans to analyze social and economic problems that don't flow directly from big government. For example, we are now at the end of the era in which a rising tide lifts all boats. Republicans like Mitt Romney can talk about improving the overall business climate with lower taxes and lighter regulation, but regular voters sense that that won't necessarily help them because wages no longer keep pace with productivity gains.

Americans are still skeptical of Washington. If you shove a big government program down their throats they will recoil. But many of their immediate problems flow from globalization, the turmoil of technological change and social decay, and they're looking for a bit of help. Moreover, given all the anti-government rhetoric, they will never trust these Republicans to reform cherished programs like Social Security and Medicare. You can't be for entitlement reform and today's GOP, because politically the two will never go together.

Can current Republicans change their underlying mentality to adapt to these realities? Intellectual history says no. People almost never change their underlying narratives or unconscious frameworks. Moreover, in the South and rural West, where most Republicans are from, the Encroachment Story has deep historic and psychological roots. Anti-Washington, anti-urban sentiment has characterized those cultures for decades.

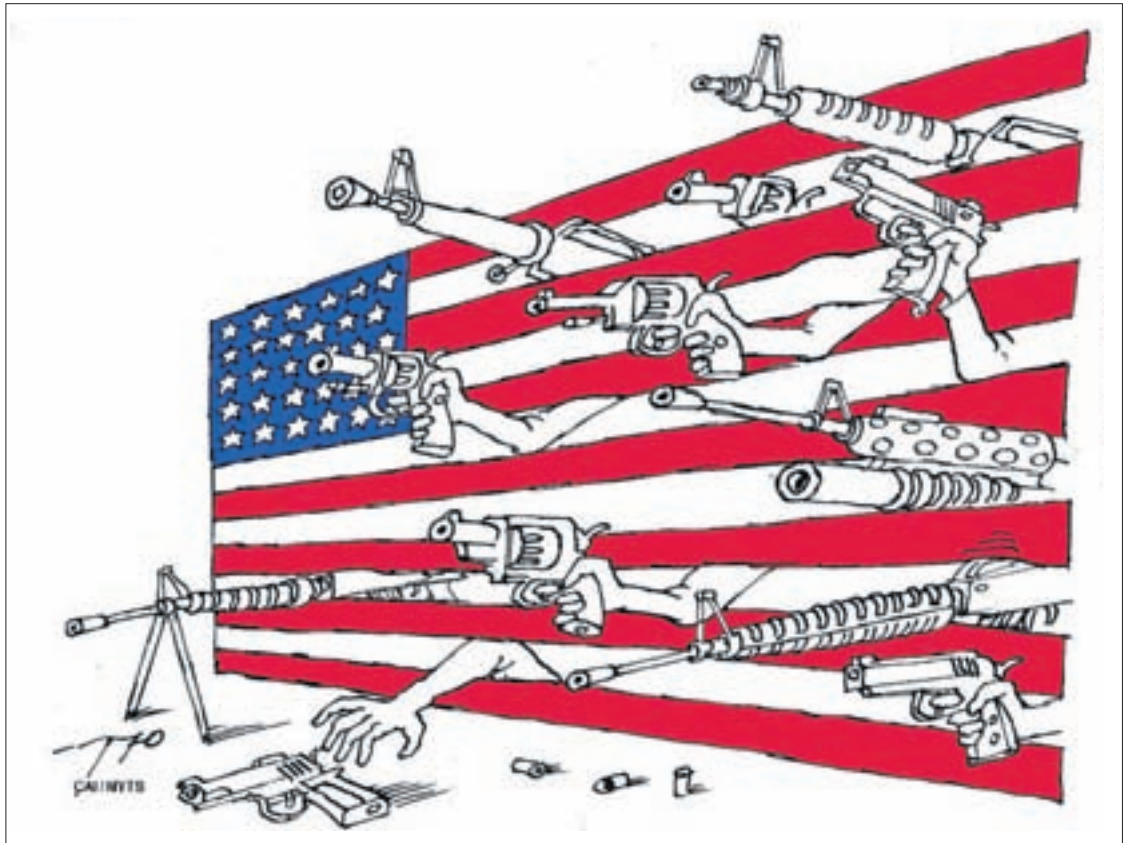
It's probably futile to try to change current Republicans. It's smarter to build a new wing of the Republican Party, one that can compete in the Northeast, the mid-Atlantic states, in the upper Midwest and along the West Coast. It's smarter to build a new division that is different the way the Westin is different than the Sheraton.

The second GOP wouldn't be based on the Encroachment Story. It would be based on the idea that America is being hit simultaneously by two crises, which you might call the Mancur Olson crisis and the Charles Murray crisis.

Olson argued that nations decline because their aging institutions get bloated and sclerotic and retard national dynamism. Murray argues that America is coming apart, dividing into two nations — one with high education levels, stable families and good opportunities and the other with low education levels, unstable families and bad opportunities.

The second GOP would tackle both problems at once. It would be filled with people who recoiled at President Barack Obama's second inaugural address because of its excessive faith in centralized power, but who don't share the absolute anti-government story of the current GOP.

Would a coastal and Midwestern GOP sit easily with the Southern and Western one? No, but majority parties are usually coalitions of the incompatible. This is really the only chance Republicans have. The question is: Who's going to build a second GOP? □



Manti And The Mating Game



FRANK BRUNI
© 2013 New York Times

As we wring our hands over the impulsive hookups and Internet hoaxes of modern romance, let us pause a moment and travel back to the days long before text messages, Photoshop and all other manner of digital bedlam. Let us return to a halcyon world of agrarian ways and contemplate the unflustered situation of a fertile lass on the cusp of womanhood centuries ago. What options she had! They were culled from the burg she lived in and maybe from the next village over, so that her total population of potential suitors — men in an acceptable age range, with discernible pulses and a majority of their limbs — was five if she was lucky, three if the burg had just emerged from a period of savage smallpox. And while her eye might be drawn to the lad with the least rotted teeth, Ma and Pa knew better, not so much nudging as commanding her toward the one whose family had the most livestock. They understood that meat, not mirth, would sustain her and her brood over the harsh winters to come, and that love meant never having to say you're hungry.

Are we really worse off now? In the annals of mating, are the straits we're in so dire? From the commentary about Manti Te'o and from the angst

vented in news reports and on blogs, you certainly get that sense. "The End of Courtship?" lamented a recent headline in The Times; the story with it traced the waning of wining and dining, the triumph of Facebook updates over face-to-face heart-to-hearts. Apparently the avenues by which lusty millennials come to grope and perchance know one another are brusque, confused and rife with deception, and probably aren't reliable precursors to unions of enduring bliss. Which is to say: They're as imperfect as they've always been. While we Homo sapiens have paired off in diverse methods across disparate epochs, we've seldom done it with ample information or any particular finesse. There was no saner, better yesteryear: just a different set of customs, a different brand of clumsiness.

And where there's sex, there's subterfuge, a truism that runs from "Cyrano de Bergerac" through "The Crying Game." It's what the makers of Spanx depend on and the peddlers of Botox profit from. All is fair in love and the eradication of unwanted bulges and creases.

True, cyberspace and smartphones have ushered in such present-day distinctions as the fully fictional avatar, the wholly disembodied relationship and the instantaneously arranged mashing of genitals. But illusion, assumption and haste have had starring roles in our amorous escapades before.

Think about war brides and wartime romances, about couples from the greatest generation who met just before D-Day or traded glances at the USO and then did their tortured wooing almost entirely by post. What they took wasn't an accurate measure of each other but a leap of faith.

And as vessels of self-revelation, were letters much more trustworthy than tweets? Couldn't their authors labor mightily over the flaunting of an invented wisdom, the flashing of a borrowed wit?

Beth Bailey, a historian at Temple University, told me that during the 19th century, when such missives were considered "an essential way to get to know people," there were how-to books that provided not only letter-writing templates but also "phrases for how to communicate your true self."

Until the dawn of cars and greater mobility, there wasn't dating as we came to understand it; there were visits on porches and in parlors, often under the intrusive gazes of nattering relatives. "It was very limiting," said Andrew Cherlin, a sociologist at Johns Hopkins University.

And there weren't all that many visits, either. Cherlin said that a person back then might meet his or her spouse just 10 times before marrying, and that this minimal contact enabled you to "present yourself much differently than you will later on."

In the 1950s, with its drive-in diners and back-seat fumbling, teenagers in lust finally had quality time away from meddlesome parents, going off to sock hops and going steady. But the choreographed roles they played and the chauvinistic rituals they obeyed didn't necessarily tease out someone's real personality and definitely didn't give young women anything approaching full autonomy.

There's no ideal stratagem for figuring out whom any one of us should be with and how to chart a course to that person, no fail-safe process for determining whether a twosome will endure. The act of getting together, whether brokered by yenta or Yahoo, is one of willed credulousness and wishful thinking as much as anything else, the triumph of optimism over morning breath.

And it's a wager, because people have hidden layers, hidden intentions. Your beloved could switch political parties. Your hookup could insist on a soundtrack of Celine Dion. Not knowing what's in store is the very soul of romance: what makes it so scary, and what makes it so thrilling. □

Super Bowl Scalpers Score!

BRETT MICHAEL DYKES

© 2013 New York Times

NEW ORLEANS — Steve Sigel has spent Super Bowl week running around this city with backpacks stuffed with thousands of dollars in cash. After leaving their base of operations — a recently rented house in a residential neighborhood — he and an associate dart in and out of public places like coffee shops and hotel lobbies, locations they have deemed safe for the frequent, high-money transactions they deal with. “You’ve got to have the cash,” Sigel said. “Nobody’s going to take a check from you because they don’t know you, so you’ve got to be prepared and ready.”

This may sound illicit, but what these two middle-

tive world of ticket resale operations.

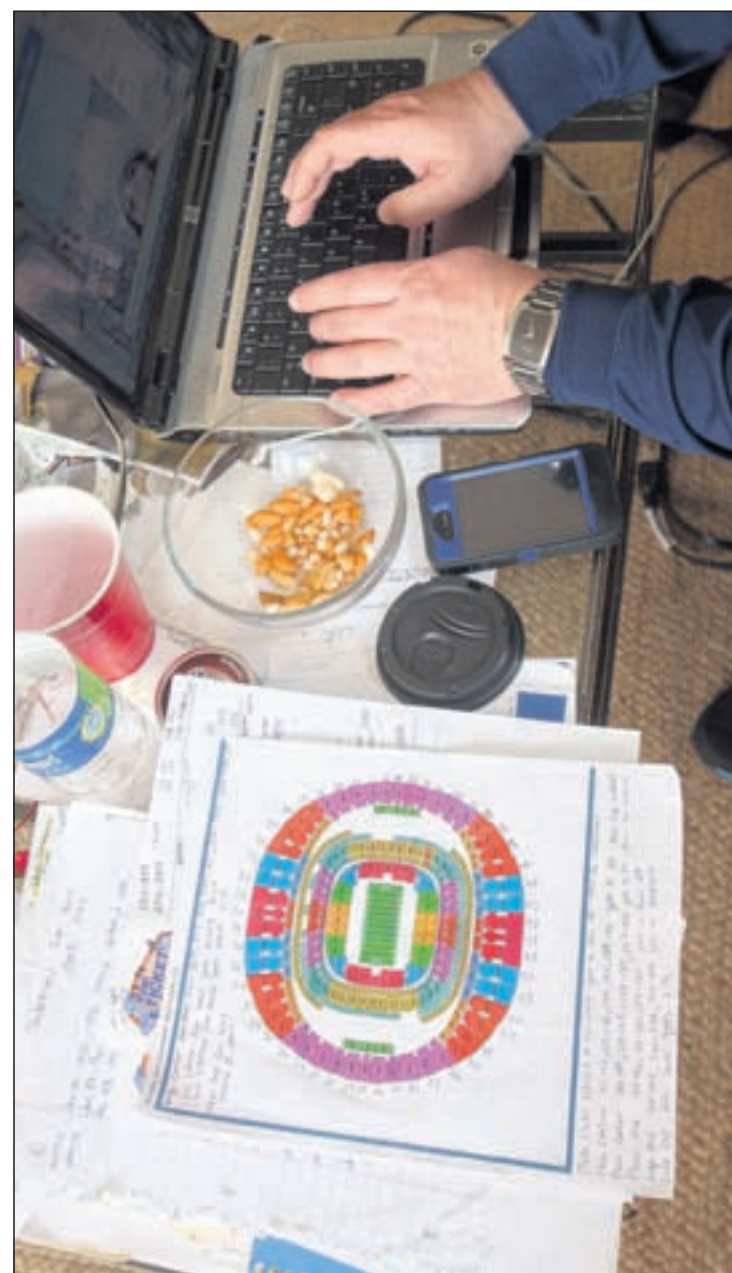
Sigel and other ticket brokers will spend the week leading up to Sunday’s Super Bowl trying to buy as many tickets to the game as they can and then sell them at a profit. Sigel buys tickets with cash in hand-to-hand transactions, then posts them for sale on his company’s website, which is technically based in Illinois, where the reselling of tickets is legal. When buyers contact him through the website, they can go to a makeshift ticket pickup center — essentially a table manned by Sigel’s sister at a downtown hotel — to exchange the money for the tickets.

How much of a profit is made on each sale varies, although Sigel said selling

who work for companies that are corporate sponsors. The league prohibits its employees, and players and coaches, from selling their tickets for a profit, and has disciplined those it has caught doing so in the past, but the practice remains relatively common and lightly policed. When asked about ticket brokering, the NFL pointed out its policy prohibiting the resale of tickets.

“We’re doing what anyone else does in any business,” Sigel said. “We’re in the service industry. I provide a service. I give people access to tickets. And a lot of times, I sell tickets for less than I paid for them.”

“We’ve got to get our bank accounts set up, our safe-deposit boxes set up, that kind of stuff,” Sigel said, not-



Steve Karadja at his computer with a Mercedes-Benz Superdome seating map in New Orleans. Ticket brokers will spend the week leading up to Sunday’s Super Bowl trying to buy as many tickets to the game as they can and then sell them at a profit.

(Lee Celano/The New York Times)



Steve Karadja, left, and Steve Sigel, who work for The Ticket Guys, a website where tickets to sporting events and concerts can be purchased, at work in a house they rented for the week in New Orleans.

(Lee Celano/The New York Times)

aged men are doing is, in fact, legal. Sigel is a licensed ticket broker, and hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of Super Bowl tickets will pass through his hands this week. For Sigel, just like the National Football League, this is the pinnacle of the year.

“The Super Bowl is our single biggest event,” said Sigel, who agreed to provide a rare look inside the lucra-

a ticket that was bought for \$1,200 for \$1,800 was considered a successful transaction, and that is the normal markup for a ticket. The face value of Super Bowl tickets ranges from \$850 to \$1,250.

The tickets can come from NFL players or coaches, who all get the opportunity to purchase two tickets from the league to each Super Bowl, or from people

ing that he also needed to order large sums of money because many banks did not carry enough cash in large bills for him to conduct his business at the speed he needed to.

Though neither Sigel nor one of his associates, Steve Karadja, 53, would disclose exactly how much cash they routinely carried with them in their backpacks, they indicated it was up-

wards of \$10,000.

“That’s pocket change,” Karadja said with a chuckle. Sigel has been dealing in Super Bowl tickets for more than a decade, and during a good week he sells 300 to 400 tickets. While he is not breaking any laws selling Super Bowl tickets online at a price above face value, the people who sell to him are, in fact, breaking the law in many states, including Louisiana, Feldman said.

“Louisiana state law prohibits any scalping of tickets above face value of the ticket unless the tickets are sold online with permission of the event organizer and location,” Feldman said. “A New Orleans city ordinance also prevents any Super Bowl tickets from being sold within 750 feet of the Superdome.”

Having spent the previous few days and nights running all over town in pursuit

of tickets, by Super Bowl Sunday most of the hard work is done for Sigel and Karadja. All that remains is getting the tickets to the buyers who have yet to pick them up. Once that is done, the brokers are usually so exhausted that they go back to where they are staying and fall asleep before the game even ends. Unless, of course, there is cause to celebrate.

“Sometimes we’ll go out for a steak,” Karadja said with a smile. “If it was a particularly good week.”

On Wednesday night, Sigel and Karadja huddled back at their rented house with Sigel’s sister, Renee Hurst, 46, who had just flown into town. She indicated that she spoke to some NFL players who were on her flight into New Orleans.

“They’re all coming to pick up their tickets, sell them, and then fly back home,” she said. □